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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK		
2	LASTERN DI	STRICT OF NEW TORK	
3		X	
4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,	: 11 CR 259	
5		:	
6	-against-	:	
7	3	United States Courthouse Brooklyn, New York	
8	GAVRIEL BIDANY,	:	
9	Defendant.	May 4, 2011 : 9:30 o'clock a.m.	
10		X	
11	TRANSCRIPT O	F TD141	
12	TRANSCRIPT OF TRIAL BEFORE THE HONORABLE RAMON E. REYES, JR.		
13		S MAGISTRATE JUDGE	
14	APPEARANCES:		
15 16	For the Government:	LORETTA E. LYNCH United States Attorney BY: DAVID SARRATT	
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22	Court Reporter:	Gene Rudolph 225 Cadman Plaza East	
23		Brooklyn, New York (718) 613-2538	
24	Proceedings recorded by mechanical stenography, transcript		
25	produced by computer-aided	transcription.	

# 3 Opening - Sarratt Mr. Bienenfeld, do you agree? 1 THE COURT: 2 MR. BIENENFELD: I just have one request. I did ask 3 the US Attorney about it before. 4 I have two character witnesses. I was wondering if they could remain in the courtroom during the testimony. 5 6 Mr. Sarratt told me no. I figured I would bring it to the 7 Court's attention. They are just going to testify as to his 8 character, no facts in the case. 9 THE COURT: Let's make it as clean as possible. 10 Miriam, why don't you escort the witnesses to the 11 jury room. 12 MR. BIENENFELD: I actually just told them wait in 13 the hallway. 14 THE COURT: That's fine. I know we are dong Naturalization out there. It is 15 16 pretty busy. If they are comfortable, it is fine. 17 MR. BIENENFELD: The second women is a little late. 18 I told people in the audience if she walks in to tell her to 19 walk out. 20 THE COURT: That's good. 21 MR. SARRATT: May I proceed, Your Honor? 22 THE COURT: Please. 23 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may it please the Court, this is a case about a brazen assault of a young woman aboard 24 25 an aircraft. The evidence will show that on March 27, 2011,

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the victim Bat-El Lechtman boarded Delta Airlines flight number 269 in Tel Aviv, Israel, bound for JFK Airport here in New York.

Your Honor will learn that Ms. Lechtman is an officer in the Israeli military. She has been in the military approximately five years. She commands approximately 15 other soldiers.

The evidence will show that Ms. Lechtman was traveling from Israel to the United States with a few of her colleagues who were coming to the United States as combat They were brought here by an organization called Israel Bonds which issues bonds on behalf of the State of Israel, to speak to potential investors about their work in the Israeli military.

The group was not seated together and Ms. Lechtman took her assigned seat, 52-B, near the rear of the 747 aircraft. This was a middle seat in a group of three seats, to the right of the aisle, as you head toward the back of the plane. We'll have a diagram that we will use to show Your Honor exactly where we are talking about.

Seated next to her in the aisle seat was the defendant Gavriel Bidany. During the flight you will learn that Ms. Lechtman went to sleep, as did many of the other passengers around her. She awoke to feel the defendant's hand between her legs, massaging her groin area. She came to and

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# Opening - Sarratt

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awoke with a start, jumping up from under the blanket she had been using to cover her head as she slept with her head on the tray table in front of her.

Speechless, she looked at the defendant seated next to her. She was shocked.

You will hear, Your Honor, that the defendant quickly jerked his hand back and pretended to go back to sleep. Ms. Lechtman covered herself again with her blanket and tried to see if the defendant would make another move. She wanted to catch him red-handed.

Your Honor, it was only a few seconds later that the defendant again reached his hands out from under his blanket and this time began grabbing and massaging Ms. Lechtman's breasts. As he did, Ms. Lechtman looked out from under her blanket and there she saw the defendant leering at her, eyes wide open, from under his blanket, watching what he was doing.

Ms. Lechtman shot up and asked the defendant, what are you doing. You have been touching me.

The defendant immediately responded that it was a mistake and that he was asleep.

Ms. Lechtman left her seat and went immediately to tell the flight crew what had happened.

You will hear from the first flight attendant that she found, Christine Ferro, who will tell you that when Ms. Lechtman came to her, Ms. Lechtman was visibly shaken, in

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# Opening - Sarratt

shock, very disturbed and very upset.

You will also hear from another flight attendant, Aviel Silber, who was a Hebrew speaking flight attendant on board the aircraft and who came to the back of the aircraft to inform the defendant that the police would be meeting the aircraft when it landed.

He will tell you that during two conversations with the defendant, the defendant did not categorically deny that he had touched Ms. Lechtman but rather said that maybe he had touched her during his sleep.

During the second conversation the defendant asked if he could speak to the victim so that he could try to sort this out and so that he could apologize.

We submit, Your Honor, that when you have heard all of the evidence in the case, you will be left with no doubt that what Ms. Lechtman says is true. The defendant knowingly and intentionally assaulted her on that flight from Tel Aviv. He should be held accountable for his actions.

Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. BIENENFELD: Good morning.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. BIENENFELD: On behalf of my client, Gavriel Bidany, let me first state our thanks to Your Honor for taking the time to adjudicate this matter. My name is Saul Bienenfeld. It is an honor and privilege to represent

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# Opening - Bienenfeld

Rabbi Bidany in this matter.

The evidence will show that this matter is not as clear-cut as the government would have you believe. Certain items are not in dispute. The fact that Bat-El Lechtman sat next to Rabbi Bidany on a very crowded Delta flight from Israel to New York. The fact that both she and the rabbi fell asleep during this flight, and the fact that at some point during the flight Bat-El Lechtman began to scream and exited the row that she was sitting in to talk to a flight attendant.

The evidence will show that this night, a night flight, sometimes referred as the Red Eye, leaves Tel Aviv very late at night and flies throughout the night to land in New York very early in the morning. Most of the passengers take this flight because they know that they will be able to get a full night's sleep and hopefully awaken refreshed and to take on the Big Apple in the morning.

The evidence will show that the lighting in the cabin is very dark during the flight so that people can sleep. The evidence will show that Rabbi Bidany in an effort to fall asleep, as well as in an effort not to come into any physical contact with the passenger seated next to him, placed a blanket over his head and body. The evidence will show that this blanket was still in place when Bat-El Lechtman began to scream and insist on exiting the row.

The evidence will show that Rabbi Bidany has

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# Opening - Bienenfeld

maintained his innocence throughout these proceedings and has stated that he never touched the woman sitting next to him knowingly.

The evidence will show that Rabbi Bidany is an extremely well respected person in his community, as well as in the New York area. He lives in Israel in a small communicate with his wife and eleven children. He is held in high esteem by all those who come to know him. He spends his time learning in yeshiva in Israel or volunteering in a soup kitchen feeding the needy.

In New York, he spends his time selflessly devoting his energies to ease the pain and burden of others by counselling individuals who seek his guidance and help, whether in matters of marriage counseling, parenting advice, business advice and spiritual guidance.

At the conclusion of all the relevant testimony, and after review of all the physical evidence, I submit to you that you will have no choice but to decide that the government has not met their burden and that Rabbi Bidany did not intentionally, recklessly or knowingly touch Bat-El Lechtman and you will find him not guilty.

Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. SARRATT: With Your Honor's permission, given the absence of a jury, I will use the closer podium for most of my questioning.

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                         Lechtman-direct-Sarratt
              THE COURT: That's fine.
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              MR. SARRATT: When I need to use the Elmo, I will go
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    back to the rear podium.
 4
              THE COURT: That's fine.
              MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor.
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 6
              At this time the government calls Bat-El Lechtman.
7
              THE COURT: Ms. Lechtman, please raise your right
8
    hand.
9
               (The witness is duly sworn-affirmed by the Court.)
10
              THE COURT: Please be seated.
11
              Please state your name.
12
              THE WITNESS: My name is Bat-El Lechtman, B A T E L,
13
    LECHTMAN.
14
    DIRECT EXAMINATION
    BY MR. SARRATT:
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16
         Good morning, Ms. Lechtman.
17
    Α
         Good morning.
18
    Q
         Where do you live?
         I live in Israel in a town called Pardes Hana.
19
    Α
20
         Ms. Lechtman, where were you born?
    Q
21
    Α
         I was born in Israel.
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         I will add one note. I believe at the court reporter's
    Q
23
    request, we are not using the microphone. So you don't need
24
    to speak into the microphone because it is not on.
25
    Α
         I'm sorry.
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#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 10 1 Q If you can keep your voice up so that everyone in the 2 courtroom can hear. 3 Α Okay. 4 O That will be great. Ms. Lechtman, have you lived in Israel your whole 5 life? 6 7 Α Yes. 8 Q How old are you, if you don't mind my asking? 9 Α I'm 23. 10 Q Is English your first language? 11 Α No. 12 How did you learn English? Q 13 Α We learn it in school, but mostly from movies, TV. 14 Q What is your first language? 15 My first language is Hebrew. Α 16 If there is anything that you don't understand, or if you 17 are not sure of the right word for something, please just let 18 me know. We do have two Hebrew interpreters on hand here 19 today so if there is anything with which you need assistance, 20 please just ask. 21 Α Okay. 22 But are you comfortable going forward with your testimony 23 in English? 24 Α Yes, I am. Ms. Lechtman, do you have a job? 25 Q

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 11 Yes. 1 Α 2 What's your job? Q 3 Α I'm in the Israeli military. 4 Q How long have you been in the military? I just -- five years and one month. 5 Α 6 Q In Israel, you are required to serve in the military, is 7 that right? 8 Α Yes. 9 Q How long? 10 Α Girls have to serve for two years. 11 Q So you decided to stay for an additional time, is that 12 right? 13 Α Yes. 14 Are you a commander in the military? 15 I'm a commander of two departments in the combat Α 16 duty. Do you have any other soldiers who serve under you? 17 Q 18 Α Yes; I have 15 soldiers. 19 I believe you mentioned a minute ago, have you served in 20 combat? 21 Α Combat areas, yes. 22 Ms. Lechtman, when was the first time that you ever came to the United States? 23 24 Α It was March 27th, this year. 25 Is that your first international travel or had you taken Q

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt

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- 1 | a flight like that before?
- 2 A I went to Canada in 2005.
- 3 Q In your trip in March 2011, why were you coming to the
- 4 United States?
- 5 A I came as a speaker for the Israeli bonds organization.
- 6 Q Can you tell the Court a little bit of what your
- 7 understanding is of what that organization does?
- 8 A It's an organization that encourages people to invest in
- 9 Israel by investing money.
- 10 | Q What were your -- what was your role while you were here?
- 11 A I was there not connected to the bonds, just telling my
- 12 | story as an Israeli soldier and commander and citizen, just
- 13 being a speaker in the event.
- 14 | Q You went to the event and gave speeches?
- 15 A Yes, events, schools -- I have been to schools, community
- 16 events, dinners.
- 17 | Q You gave a speech about what you do?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Were you traveling by yourself or as part of a group?
- 20 A We were four officers from Israel sent to four different
- 21 cities. But I was alone in my -- when I was traveling.
- 22 | Q So by that do you mean that you weren't seated next to
- 23 any other officers who were coming with you?
- 24 A On the plane, there were two other officers who came with
- 25 | me. But we weren't sitting next to one another.

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 13 1 Q I want to direct your attention now to the flight Okay. 2 that you just mentioned, the flight that you took from Israel 3 to the United States for the trip in March 2011. 4 The date of the flight, I believe you said, was March 27th or so? 5 Α 6 Yes. 7 Where was that flight leaving from? Q 8 It was from Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv. Α 9 Q Where was the destination of that flight? 10 Α JFK Airport. 11 Q Here in New York? 12 Α Yes. 13 Q What airline? 14 Α Delta. 15 What time of day did the flight leave? Q 16 It was midnight, midnight 15, I think. Α 17 Q What time of day does that flight arrive in New York? 18 Α At 4:30. 19 Q The next morning? 20 Yes. Α 21 Q So early in the morning, the following day? 22 Α Yes. 23 Q Do you remember what kind of plane it was? 24 Α Yes; it was a 747. 25 Q Do you recall where you were seated on the flight?

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 14 1 Yes; I was sitting in 52-B. Α 2 Was that a window seat, a middle seat or an aisle seat? 3 Α It's a middle seat. 4 At this point I want to show you a set of diagrams that are marked as Government Exhibit 1. I believe I will be able 5 to put them up on the screen that's next to you so you can see 6 7 them. 8 This is a three-page document that's marked as 9 Government Exhibit 1. 10 First I just want to ask if you are able to see this document? 11 12 Α Yes. 13 Q I will now turn to the second page. 14 Are you able to see that document? 15 Α Yes. 16 Now I will turn to the third page, which is simply a 17 larger version of the section of what I showed you before. 18 Are you able to see this part? 19 Α Yes. 20 I am now on the third page of the document but I want to 21 ask you about the document as a whole. 22 Do you recognize this and does it appear to you to 23 be accurate, an accurate reflection of the seating 24 configuration the plane that night from Tel Aviv? Yes, it is. 25 Α

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 15 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, at this time we will move 1 2 to admit Government Exhibit 1. 3 THE COURT: Any objection? 4 MR. BIENENFELD: No objection. THE COURT: Received. 5 6 (Marked.) 7 Ms. Lechtman, do you see on this diagram now where your Q 8 seat was? 9 Α Yes. I believe you are able to touch it on the screen there 10 11 and it will show up so that the --12 Α Here. 13 -- the people in the courtroom can see. 14 Just touch your seat. MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may the record reflect 15 16 that the witness has marked --17 The middle one. 18 MR. SARRATT: The middle seat in row 52, which is 19 marked on this diagram as seat 52-B. 20 THE COURT: Let the record so reflect. 21 Ms. Lechtman, you were seated in the middle seat. 22 Do you recall the people who were seated on other 23 side of you? 24 Α Yes. 25 Were they already there when you got to your seat or did

	Lechtman-direct-Sarratt		
1	you get there first?		
2	A The woman in the window seat to my left, she was an		
3	Israeli woman. She sat there when I came there. She was		
4	already there.		
5	The seat next to me, the man next to me sat after		
6	me, sat next to me afterwards, after I got there.		
7	Q So he came after you were already there?		
8	A Yes.		
9	Q The man who was seated next to you then in the aisle		
10	seat, do you see that person in the courtroom today?		
11	A Yes.		
12	Q I would ask that you identify him by an article of		
13	clothing that he is wearing.		
14	A I'm sorry. I didn't understand.		
15	Q Can you say out loud where the defendant is and say		
16	something that he is wearing, just so that the court		
17	reporter		
18	A It's the man with the beard on that table.		
19	MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may the record reflect		
20	that the witness has identified the defendant.		
21	THE COURT: There are two men with beards. Is it		
22	the man with the longer beard or		
23	THE WITNESS: The longer beard.		
24	THE COURT: Let the record so reflect.		
25	MR. SARRATT: I apologize, Your Honor. I didn't		

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 17 1 even notice the man with the beard. I apologize. 2 Ms. Lechtman, as the flight got under way, what happened? 3 First they served us the food. I got mine, my dinner 4 before he did. Q When you say he did, who are you referring to? 5 6 Α I am referring to this man. 7 Q Okay. And --8 Α 9 Q Did you have any conversation with the defendant? 10 Α No. 11 Actually, I was -- because I noticed what he wears 12 and he -- he dresses up like someone who is conservative 13 Jewish, conservative Jewish, so I know they are not supposed 14 to talk and touch women, so I didn't want to start a conversation. I didn't want to offend him. 15 16 So I try not talking to him, except for once when he got a dinner. He got a little dirty. I offered him a paper 17 18 towel and he took it from me. 19 But you avoided conversation with him out of respect for 20 his religious beliefs? 21 Yes. 22 I was actually surprised for him to agree sitting 23 next to me in the first place because --24 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection. 25 THE COURT: Sustained.

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 18 What did you do after your meal? 1 Q 2 Α After the meal, they showed a movie on the plane. 3 Q What movie was it? 4 Α Narnia, the third part. Q Chronicles? 5 Α 6 Yes. 7 What happened after the movie was over? Q 8 After the movie was over, I noticed that this man was 9 asleep next to me. The woman on my left also was asleep 10 already. 11 Q What did you do? 12 I tried falling asleep as well. Α 13 Q Did you have any luck? 14 Α Actually, no. 15 I couldn't find a good position to fall asleep in. I covered my head with the blanket but I tried positions and I 16 17 couldn't fall asleep. 18 Q Was there any reason --19 THE INTERPRETER: Your Honor, the interpreter would 20 ask the witness to speak up and also to move the microphone 21 away from her mouth. 22 THE COURT: Okay. 23 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you. 24 THE COURT: Please read that back. 25 (Read.)

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 19 1 Was there any reason that you felt that you were having Q 2 trouble falling asleep? 3 Yes. I felt uncomfortable because his hand was on my 4 seat. Q When you say his hand, who are you talking about? 5 6 Α I am talking about him. There is a name. I --7 Q The defendant? 8 Α Yes. 9 Q When you say his hand was on your seat, are you referring 10 to the armrest or your actual seat? 11 Α My actual seat. 12 So his hand was on the flat part of your seat? Q 13 Α Yes. 14 Q The --15 He was asleep and he was kind of -- you have two sides to 16 fall asleep on. So he fell asleep on his left side, the one 17 closer to me, and his left hand was on my seat. 18 Q Rather than leaning toward the aisle, the defendant was 19 leaning towards you? 20 Α Yes. 21 His hand was on your chair? 22 Α Yes. 23 What, if anything, did you do in response when you saw 24 his hand on your chair? 25 I looked at him and he appears to be sleeping, appeared

1 to be sleeping, so again out of respect for him I didn't want

- 2 him to wake up and I know he's close to touching me or
- 3 | anything like that. So I took my pillow, the one I got from
- 4 the plane, and put it between his hand and my side.
- 5 Q And were you creating a buffer sort of?
- 6 A Yes.
- 7 | Q At that point what did you do?
- 8 A Well, I just kept the pillow there all the time. When
- 9 his hand moved, I just kept it there to avoid contact. And I
- 10 | tried finding the right position, a comfortable position to
- 11 | fall asleep in.
- 12 | Q Were you eventually able to fall asleep?
- 13 A Well, I was -- you'd call it nodding I think, like fall
- 14 asleep and then always wake up no matter what I did. Every
- 15 | time I woke up, I had to fix his hand again because it was
- 16 heading more towards me and I have to -- several times I
- 17 | actually tried pushing it with more aggression in order for
- 18 him to maybe wake up, notice what's happening, and turn to the
- 19 other side because I thought he'd be more offended than I am
- 20 and I was -- I can say I felt uncomfortable with his presence
- 21 because it's not nice when someone invades your space and I
- 22 | could feel sometimes his leg was rubbing mine so eventually I
- 23 | think I -- I succeeded falling asleep a little deeper but I
- 24 don't know for how long.
- 25 Q When you did fall asleep, how were you positioned?

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 21 1 Α I opened the tray --2 The tray? Q 3 Α Yes, the tray. 4 Q That folds down from the seat in front of you? Α Yes. 5 6 I was just putting my hands like this and -- with 7 the blanket over my head. 8 Okay. Ms. Lechtman, what woke you up? I actually woke up slowly that when -- when I woke up 9 10 fully I felt someone touching my groin. 11 Who was touching your groin? Q 12 Α This man. 13 Q Are you indicating the defendant? 14 Α Yes. 15 When he had his hand on your groin, was his hand still or 16 was it moving? 17 It was moving. 18 Q Can you describe, if you will, how he was moving his 19 hand? 20 Α He moved his fingers in circular movement. 21 I just ask, it may be easier to demonstrate, would you be 22 willing to demonstrate for the Court how he was moving his hand? 23 24 Α Yes. 25 You can stand up if you need to.

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 22 1 I can show it on my hand. Can I? Α 2 Q As long as Your Honor can see. 3 Α It's something like this (indicating). 4 Once you realized this was happening, what did you do? I was startled by it because at the moment I wake -- I 5 woke up I -- I noticed that. So I jumped in my seat and I 6 7 noticed he jumped also. He took his hand away from me and kind of putting himself in sleeping position. 8 9 Did he pull his hand away slowly or quickly? 10 Α Quickly. 11 As soon as I jumped in my seat, he took his hand and 12 he covered his head with his blanket, closed his eyes 13 and -- -- and acted as if he were asleep. 14 Did the defendant jump as well or did he appear to start when you did? 15 16 Yes. 17 When you observed him at this point, did he appear to you 18 to be asleep or awake? 19 Α He appeared to be awake. He was trying to look as if he 20 were asleep, at least for my opinion. 21 Q If you could explain --22 MR. BIENENFELD: Can you read that back? I didn't 23 hear what she said. 24 THE COURT: Please. 25 THE WITNESS: I said --

#### 23 Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 1 THE COURT: The court reporter will read it back. 2 (Record read.) 3 If you can just describe how it was that he appeared 4 then? 5 Well, the best example I can make is I have a seven-year 6 old brother and when we tell him to go to bed and he's playing 7 with his toys and you go up and catch him, so this is the 8 exact thing he does, jumps really fast, organizes and closes 9 his eyes. And you can see he's awake. 10 Q It was clear to you that the defendant was pretending to 11 be asleep? 12 Α Yes. 13 How was the defendant positioned at that point? Q 14 He was lying on the side, on his left side, with his head kind of looking at me, heading towards me. 15 16 Q He was still leaning toward his left, toward your seat? 17 Α Yes. 18 Q Was he at this point using a blanket or not? 19 Α Yes, he was. 20 Q What did you decide to do in that moment? 21 Well, it was obvious that he's pretending to be asleep. 22 So I wanted to catch him red-handed while I'm awake. 23 wanted to see if it's a one-time thing or maybe it -- it 24 happens during the whole flight because I couldn't sleep 25 during the whole flight. So I wondered why it was.

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 24 1 I came back to my first -- to a sitting position and 2 I covered my head with my blanket. I was pretending to be 3 asleep and waiting to see if something happened. 4 Ms. Lechtman, what did happen next? 5 A short time afterwards, his hand was on my breast, also 6 moving the same way it was before. 7 Which hand? Q 8 Α His right hand. 9 Was he moving his hand when he was touching you or was it still? 10 11 He was moving his hand. 12 He was using his right hand on your breasts? Q 13 Α Yes. 14 Did you decide to look over at the defendant at this point? 15 16 Well, basically, I took my blanket off and when I did it, my head was -- I mean, I looked at him. 17 18 Q Could you see whether his eyes were open or closed? 19 Α I could see his eyes were open. 20 Q Could you clearly see that his eyes were open? 21 Α Yes. 22 Q Could you tell where he was looking? 23 Α He was -- he was leaning to his left side, on his left 24 side, and his blanket was over his head and his -- he 25 had -- open between his head and his blanket so he could look

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 25 1 right to -- towards me. 2 Was he looking at you? 3 Α Yes. 4 I was under the blanket but you could see his hand. Q What did you do at that point? 5 6 Well, at that point I took the blanket off my head. At 7 that moment he jumped and tried acting as if he were asleep 8 again. 9 Did you say anything to the defendant? 10 Α Yes. 11 I immediately said, what are you doing. You're 12 touching me. He said no, no, it's a mistake. I'm asleep. 13 And I said it's not a mistake. You're not asleep. 14 I just want to be clear. 15 You said, what are you doing, you're touching me. Then what did the defendant say? 16 17 Well, he tried to put the blanket above his head, cover 18 himself from me. While he said -- while saying, no, no, it's 19 a mistake. I'm asleep. 20 THE COURT: Ms. Lechtman, when he touched your 21 breast, was his hand underneath your blanket or on top? 22 THE WITNESS: Underneath my blanket. Because it was 23 on my head, there was an opening on the side, open so he 24 could --25 THE COURT: Okay.

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 26 1 Q Did the defendant ask you any questions at that point? 2 Α No. 3 Q He just said, it's a mistake, I'm asleep? 4 Α Yes. Then I told him, it's not a mistake. You're not 5 6 sleeping. You touched me and you have been doing it the whole 7 flight, and I told him to move because I want to tell the 8 flight attendant. 9 Q And --10 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry. The interpreter 11 didn't hear? THE COURT: Please read it back. 12 13 (Read.) 14 Q Did you go tell the flight attendant? Yes. 15 Α 16 Where was the flight attendant when you then encountered 17 that person? 18 Α You want me to show you here? 19 Q Sure. If you can. 20 I think it's this aisle. Α 21 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may the record reflect 22 that the witness has made a mark on Government's Exhibit 1 and 23 that she has indicated the center galley, just in front of and 24 near row 51 of the aircraft. 25 THE COURT: So noted.

#### Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 27

1 Q Ms. Lechtman, how were you feeling at that point?

2 Well, I was experiencing stress. I was stressed because

3 I knew that I am not going to let it pass and I wasn't sure

4 what's going to happen with me because I'm an Israeli citizen

and I am on duty. I have a schedule, people who are waiting

6 They are supposed to be responsible for me and I

7 don't know anything about the court system here or what's

8 going to happen. So I was really stressed because I didn't

9 know what -- what would happen, how things turn up. Turn out.

10 And also, I felt bad because of the -- you know,

11 what just happened.

12 What do you mean "bad"?

13 Well, mostly you feel stupid, stupid and naive and you

14 feel deceived.

15 Q Did you explain what had happened to the flight

16 attendant?

17 Α Yes.

18 What did the flight attendant do at that point?

19 She asked me how -- she asked me to describe the way he

20 looks and I told her and she asked me where is he sitting.

21 I told her. And she went, went over to his seat and then she

22 came back to me, telling me he was not in his seat.

23 Q Were you able to observe where the defendant was at that

24 point?

25 Α Yes.

> GR 0CR CM CRR CSR

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt

1 She took me to see if he's standing in the back of

- 2 the plane.
- 3 Q Was he there?
- 4 Α Yes.
- Were you able to identify the defendant then for the 5
- flight attendant? 6
- 7 I pointed him. Α Yes.
- 8 After you pointed him out, where did you go?
- 9 Α I took my -- my things from my seat and they put me on a
- 10 jump seat before.
- 11 Q Where was that jump seat?
- 12 I don't know; somewhere in the middle of the plane. Α
- 13 Q Farther up from where you were sitting?
- 14 Yes. Α
- 15 I actually went to one of the officers that flew
- with me because I wanted to be with someone, so he sat next to 16
- 17 me on the jump seat. And later on, they moved me to another
- 18 seat.
- 19 Ms. Lechtman, did you see the defendant again while you
- 20 were on the plane?
- 21 Α No.
- 22 I saw him only when -- when we got off the plane.
- 23 Q After the flight had landed?
- 24 Α Yes.
- 25 Q Ms. Lechtman, has anything like this ever happened to you

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# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 29 before? 1 2 Not as -- how do you say? 3 (Hebrew spoken.) THE INTERPRETER: Not in absolute a manner. 4 Not like that. A lot of times in places, public 5 Α Yes. 6 places, the -- men rub against women or stuff like that. never so directly to nothing, to my parts. 7 8 Have you ever made a complaint of this nature about 9 anyone ever? 10 Α No. 11 Q After this happened, did you go on with your trip? 12 Α Yes. 13 After this happened and I gave my statement to the 14 security forces, I continued my trip. 15 Q So you went on and gave your speeches? 16 Yes. 17 Have you been in the United States ever since or did you 18 return to Israel? 19 Are you talking about -- I stayed for another -- another 20 extra day after the trip, but it was for this case, not -- not 21 for anything else. 22 Why did you stay for a few extra days? 23 Α Because they told me the trial can happen in the week 24 after the -- the incident. You thought it was possible the trial might happen more 25 Q

# Lechtman-direct-Sarratt 30 quickly? 1 2 Yes. But after that didn't happen, did you go back to Israel? 3 Q 4 Α Yes. Did you consider then whether you might be able to press 5 6 charges in Israel? 7 Yes. 8 I tried putting a complaint in the Israeli police 9 but they told me it's not under their jurisdiction and I was 10 consulting lawyers from Israel about doing a citizen lawsuit 11 but they told me it's very complicated doing because I have to 12 prove a lot of things and I actually can't do it without a 13 conviction here. 14 Do you intend to bring a civil suit against Mr. Bidany? I can't tell you that yet. I'm not sure. 15 16 In order to come here then for trial, did you have to 17 seek permission from your commanding officers to be here 18 today? 19 Α Yes, of course. 20 Q Are you using your vacation time? 21 Α Yes. 22 Ms. Lechtman, why did you come back? Q 23 Α First, because I want -- I don't want this whole case to 24 go without --25 MR. BIENENFELD: I object to this, Your Honor.

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 31 THE COURT: Overruled. 1 2 Should I continue? Α 3 THE COURT: You can continue. 4 I came back first because I noticed I can't do a lot of things in Israel because it's happened on the way here. And I 5 6 want justice to be made. That's all. 7 MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Ms. Lechtman. 8 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BIENENFELD: 9 Q 10 Good morning, Ms. Lechtman. 11 My name is Saul Bienenfeld. I have the honor and 12 privilege of representing Rabbi Bidany in this trial. 13 We never met before, have we? 14 No. Α 15 We never spoke before? Q 16 Α No. But you did have opportunities to speak with the FBI in 17 18 this case, correct? 19 Α That's correct. 20 Q How many times did you meet with the FBI in this case? 21 Α Meet or talked? 22 Q Let's start with meet. 23 Α This is my --24 THE INTERPRETER: May the interpreter request that 25 the witness speaks a little louder?

#### 32 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 THE COURT: Please keep your voice up, Ms. Lechtman. 2 THE WITNESS: I'm trying. 3 I think three times. 4 Q How many times have you spoken with FBI agents about this case? 5 6 About what happened in the case? Only at the three times 7 But about things like if I am going -- if I am we've met. 8 going to go to the trial or not, and what's happening with the 9 case, it was on email mostly. 10 THE INTERPRETER: What was the last word? THE WITNESS: Email. 11 12 Q You have met with the Assistant U.S. Attorney on this 13 case before? 14 Α Yes. You had time to prepare with him? 15 Q 16 Α Yes. 17 You told the FBI certain events that took place on Delta 18 flight 269 on March 27, 2011, correct? 19 Α Yes. 20 And when you told them you wanted to be truthful and 21 honest, correct? 22 Α Yes. 23 Q You wanted to be careful about how you presented your 24 story to them, correct? 25 Α Yes.

# 33 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 Q Did you have an occasion to write out a handwritten 2 statement of what occurred? 3 It wasn't with the FBI. It was with police. And yes, 4 but it was hard for me to write everything in English. So --THE INTERPRETER: Interpreter missed. I apologize. 5 THE COURT: It was hard for me to write everything 6 7 in English. So? 8 THE WITNESS: So I kind of dictated the police 9 officer what -- and he wrote it down. 10 Q So it's not your handwriting? 11 The name and the address, I think it's my handwriting. 12 But no. The signature of course. But not --13 Q Do you know what time you wrote out that statement? 14 It's somewhere between 4:30 and 6:00 am. 15 If you saw a copy of that statement, would it refresh 16 your recollection? I'm sorry? 17 18 Q If you saw a copy of that statement, would it refresh 19 your recollection as to what time you wrote the statement? 20 Probably. I mean, the time is written there? I don't 21 know. 22 MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, do I approach the 23 witness or do I put it on the Elmo? 24 THE COURT: Why don't you put it on the Elmo? 25 MR. BIENENFELD: Okay.

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 34 1 Q Is this a copy of the statement that you wrote out? 2 Α Yes. 3 Q You see where it says date of statement? 4 Α Yes. Is that in your handwriting? 5 Q Α Yes. 6 7 And the day, is that in your handwriting? Q 8 Α Yes. 9 Q And the time, that you started the statement, is that in 10 your handwriting? Α 11 Yes. 12 What time did you start the statement? Q 13 Α The --14 THE INTERPRETER: Stop or start? MR. BIENENFELD: Start. 15 16 5:30. I mean, that's what's written. 17 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter apologizes. 18 THE COURT: That's okay. 5:30, that's what's written. 19 20 Q Was that New York time or Israeli time? 21 Α New York time. 22 That would be 5:30 am, correct? Q 23 Α Yes. Did you indicate on the statement what time the incident 24 25 occurred?

Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 35 Objection, Your Honor. 1 MR. SARRATT: 2 I don't think the counsel has asked whether this 3 prior statement refreshes a current recollection of the I don't see that it is appropriate for him to ask 4 witness. her directly about what she indicated on the statement. 5 6 THE COURT: Do you remember at what time the 7 incident occurred? 8 THE WITNESS: No. I can't tell what time it Because I had no watch. So I can't tell when it 9 happened. 10 happened. 11 I can tell, it's probably about two hours after we 12 took off because I had time to eat dinner and watch a movie 13 and I am not sure exactly when it happened. 14 THE COURT: Continue, please. 15 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, if I may? 16 I believe perhaps the witness misunderstood your 17 question about --18 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection to this, Your Honor. 19 If you want a side bar, we'll have a side bar. I 20 don't want him coaching the witness. 21 THE COURT: Let him continue. 22 The incident happened about two hours after it took off,

- correct?
- 24 Α I can't say that for sure.

23

25 Q Did you tell the FBI that it took about two hours after

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 36 it took off? 1 2 No. 3 I told them -- I told them I don't know. 4 have told them probably. But I was never sure about when did it happen. 5 6 Q Did you ever see a copy of the complaint in this case? 7 Α Actually, yes, yesterday. 8 Did you tell the FBI agent that approximately one hour 9 into the flight that you observed the defendant place a 10 blanket over his head and appear to go to sleep? 11 It's in the middle of the -- of the whole scene. I am 12 not -- I don't think I understand. 13 You had an occasion to meet with this FBI agent over Q 14 here. Her name is Janet -- Special Agent Janet Ambrisco, 15 correct? 16 Yes. 17 You had an opportunity to tell her what happened, 18 correct? 19 Α Yes. 20 Q You told her what time things happened, correct? 21 Α I don't remember for sure but probably. 22 Q You knew that she was going to write out a complaint 23 based on what you told her, is that correct? 24 Α Yes. You wanted to be truthful when you told her these facts, 25 Q

# Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 37 1 correct? 2 I was truthful. 3 Did you tell her that approximately one and a half hours 4 into the flight, that the defendant placed his hand under your blanket and on your groin? 5 I don't remember. 6 7 THE COURT: Sustained. 8 That's not what it says. 9 Q Did you tell that approximately one hour into the flight, 10 you observed the defendant place a blanket over his head and 11 appear to go to sleep? 12 I don't remember the time. I remember what happened. 13 Q I know you --14 I don't remember me telling her it happened an hour after the flight. So I can't answer any question that starts with 15 16 one hour after the flight. 17 THE INTERPRETER: Interpreter missed half of what 18 was said. 19 THE COURT: Could you please turn on your 20 microphone? 21 THE WITNESS: I can stand? 22 THE COURT: Turn all the mikes on. 23 Can you each make sure your mikes are turned off. 24 You can turn your mike on. 25 All right.

## Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 38 Continue. 1 2 MR. BIENENFELD: I believe the interpreter needed to 3 translate something. 4 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter missed the last 5 sentence. If the court reporter would repeat it, the 6 interpreter would be grateful. 7 THE COURT: Please read that back. 8 (Read.) **EXAMINATION CONTINUES** 9 BY MR. BIENENFELD: 10 11 If the FBI agent wrote that you told her that the 12 incident took place -- withdrawn. 13 So if the FBI agent wrote that you told her that an 14 hour into the flight you observed the defendant put a blanket over his head, that would be incorrect? 15 16 I can't tell you for sure. I don't remember what time 17 did I say to her. I can't tell you if it's wrong or right. I 18 can tell you I really can't tell. 19 Well, if you didn't tell the FBI agent, did somebody else 20 tell the FBI agent when this happened? 21 MR. SARRATT: I object. 22 THE COURT: Sustained. 23 Α I was --24 Q After this incident took place, and after they reseated 25 you, how long did it take to land the plane?

#### 39 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld I don't know. 1 Α 2 Can you describe how close the seats that you were in and 3 the defendant was in, how close they are together? 4 Α The only thing that sets the seats apart are the handles. Q Otherwise, they are pretty close together, correct? 5 Α Yes. 6 7 You've never flown Delta before, correct? Q 8 That's right. Α 9 Q When you went to Canada, did you fly El Al or Air Canada? 10 Α I think Air Canada. I am not sure. 11 Q This Delta flight was a full flight, is that correct? 12 Α Yes. 13 Q Every seat was taken? 14 Α Yes. 15 Did you have an occasion when you flew to Canada to 16 walk -- to walk around the aircraft? 17 Α Yes. 18 Q Did you notice that people fall asleep on airplanes? Yes. 19 Α 20 Do you know sometimes fall asleep on each other on an 21 airplane? 22 Α Yes. 23 Q So there are times that a passenger might fall asleep on 24 the passenger next to them accidentally, is that correct? 25 Α Yes.

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 40 1 Now, you indicated that Rabbi Bidany put a blanket over Q 2 himself, correct? 3 At the last -- yes. 4 Q He was using a blanket, correct? Yes. 5 Α Q What parts of his body were covered with the blanket? 6 7 Α In which time do you refer? 8 When you first got on the plane and you eventually you 9 said that you were sleeping, correct? 10 Before you fell asleep, was he asleep? 11 Α Yes. 12 Did he have a blanket covering him? Q 13 Α Yes. 14 Q What parts of his body were covered by the blanket? 15 I don't remember. Α 16 Was his head covered? Q 17 Α I am not sure. 18 Q Can you describe what the blanket looks like? 19 It's a red blanket, Delta blanket. I am not sure 20 about -- it's not a big blanket. It's a small one. Small blanket. 21 Q 22 But could the blanket cover a person sitting down 23 from their head all the way down to below their knees? 24 Α It can cover me up, but I am not sure about him. 25 MR. BIENENFELD: May I have a second? I forgot

# Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 41 1 something. 2 Your Honor, I am going to ask that this be marked as 3 Defendant's Exhibit A for identification. 4 THE COURT: Okay. 5 (Marked.) 6 MR. BIENENFELD: May I show the witness, Your Honor? 7 THE COURT: Sure. 8 Any objection to --9 MR. SARRATT: I just want to make clear for the record, that these are not actual blankets from the flight 10 11 from Tel Aviv. These are blankets that counsel has ordered 12 off of ebay. 13 MR. BIENENFELD: That is correct, Your Honor. 14 THE COURT: Do we know if they are the same, 15 similar? 16 THE WITNESS: I can tell you. I just fly Delta 17 yesterday. 18 THE COURT: Please. 19 MR. SARRATT: This is the first time I've seen them, 20 Your Honor, or heard about them. I don't think at this point 21 there is any foundation for the fact that these blankets are 22 the same as the ones that were on the Tel Aviv flight that 23 night. 24 THE COURT: Let him ask some questions and we will 25 see.

## Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 42 I show you what has previously's been marked rather as 1 Q 2 Defense Exhibit A. I want to ask you if you recognize that? 3 No, I can't. 4 Q Okay. It's not the same blanket. 5 What's different about this blanket than the Delta 6 Q 7 blanket on your flight? 8 It -- I think it's made out of another fabric and it's 9 thicker. 10 THE COURT: This one is thicker? 11 THE WITNESS: Yes. 12 THE COURT: Than the --13 THE WITNESS: And the color of the other blanket is 14 darker. 15 MR. BIENENFELD: I will ask this be marked as 16 Defense Exhibit B then. 17 MR. SARRATT: The same objection, Your Honor. 18 THE COURT: The same ruling. 19 (Marked.) 20 Do you recognize Defense Exhibit B? Q 21 Α Yes. 22 What do you recognize that to be? Q 23 Α It's very similar to the blanket we had on the plane. 24 MR. BIENENFELD: I move it into evidence as a 25 blanket similar to the blanket that they had on the plane,

## Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 43 Your Honor. It is Exhibit B. 1 2 THE COURT: Objection? 3 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I think I do object. 4 It's not clear that it is the same blanket. If it is not, then I -- the item doesn't have any relevance. 5 6 THE COURT: Ms. Lechtman, can you hold the blanket 7 up and look at it? 8 MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, may I just take back Exhibit A so we don't confuse them? 9 10 THE COURT: Sure. 11 Does this appear to be the approximate size and 12 dimensions of the blanket that was used on the flight in 13 question? 14 THE WITNESS: Yes. 15 THE COURT: All right. I am going to allow it. Ι 16 will admit it into evidence. 17 That's Defendant's Exhibit B. 18 (Marked.) **EXAMINATION CONTINUES** 19 20 BY BIENENFELD: 21 Was the defendant using a similar blanket to Defense 22 Exhibit B when he covered himself with a blanket? 23 Α Yes. 24 When you were sleeping on this airplane, were you wearing a seat belt? 25

#### 44 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 Only when I had to. Α 2 Only when the seat belt sign was on? 3 Α I think so. 4 Q In your statement you said that we were sleeping next to 5 each other during the flight. Correct? Α Yes. 6 7 How do you know that he was sleeping? () 8 Because every time I woke up and jumped, you -- I looked to my side, to both of my sides, and his eyes were closed. 9 10 So that's how the man looks like when he's sleeping. 11 Q Was he snoring at all? 12 Α No. 13 But while you were sleeping, you wouldn't know whether Q 14 he's sleeping or awake, correct? 15 Α Of course. 16 Did you also tell the FBI that he was sleeping for a good 17 portion of the flight? 18 Α What portion? 19 (Interpreter interprets.) 20 Α Relative to me, yes. How long were you sleeping before the incident occurred? 21 Q 22 Α I can't tell. I don't know. 23 Q Were you in a deep sleep? 24 Α Deeper than before, but I am not sure how deep. 25 Q Do you know if the defendant was in a deep sleep?

## Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 45 I don't think he was asleep. 1 No. 2 If you say you don't know if he was asleep, why in your 3 statement did you write we were sleeping next to each other? 4 Α Probably --5 MR. SARRATT: Objection. I think it's been clear that the defendant didn't 6 7 write this. Excuse me. I misspoke. The witness didn't write 8 the statement. 9 THE COURT: I will overrule the objection, but I 10 understand your point. I am not sure. I don't know. We were sitting next to 11 12 each other. I can't tell. I can tell only if I was sleeping 13 or not. I can't tell if anyone else were asleep and -- unless 14 I saw him with his eyes open. But you told the police officer who wrote your statement 15 Q 16 we were sleeping next to each other, correct? 17 Α I don't know. Probably if this is what he wrote. 18 Q You wrote -- I'm sorry. 19 Withdrawn. 20 You said to this police officer who was writing down 21 your statement, and his hand was on my chair next to my leg, 22 correct? 23 Α Yes. 24 Q And where on your chair was his hand? 25 Α Where on my chair?

### 46 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 Q Yes. 2 On the seat. Α 3 Q Was it his right hand or his left hand? 4 Α I believe it was his left hand. 5 Q Did you ask him to move his hand? Α 6 No. 7 Q Was he asleep at this time? 8 Α That's what I thought he was. 9 Q What about his appearance led you to believe that he was 10 asleep? 11 He's wearing a black suit and a yarmulka. He has a 12 beard, so from my knowledge, he's supposed to be conservative 13 and they are not supposed to touch women and talk to women and 14 make as less contact with women as possible. So I didn't want to wake someone like that up and it kind of sounds like I'm 15 16 accusing him of something. So I didn't want to do that 17 because I thought it will insult him. 18 Q Was his head covered with a blanket? 19 I don't know. At that point I think not. I think he was 20 sitting like this. Okay. And his hand was on my seat. I 21 think he was covered up to his chest. But I am not sure about 22 it, his head. 23 Q But his eyes were definitely closed? 24 Α When I looked at him, yes. 25 Q Was the armrest down?

#### 47 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld No. 1 Α 2 The armrest was in the up position between the two seats? Q 3 Α It was on the middle. Like it is supposed to be. 4 () That's called armrest down. Oh, okay. 5 Α 6 THE INTERPRETER: It's lower, it's in the middle. 7 Q What position was your tray table at this point? 8 In which point? Α 9 Q When you say, and his hand was on my chair next to my 10 leq. 11 It -- his hand was on my chair for a long time so at that 12 time I tried to find a lot of positions to sleep in. 13 Sometimes the tray opened, sometimes closed. 14 Q What about his tray table? 15 It was closed. Α 16 Q You fell asleep at certain times while this was going on? 17 Α Excuse me. What? 18 Q While his hand was on your chair, did you fall asleep? 19 Α This is the part where I nodded, when I -- I always woke 20 up. 21 You did fall asleep at times while his hand was on your Q 22 chair? 23 Α Yes. 24 While you were sleeping, how did you know his hand was on 25 your chair?

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 48 Because I wasn't sleeping deeply and every time I woke 1 2 up, his hand was still there and my pillow still separated 3 between my thigh and his hand. So I assumed it was there all 4 the time. Q 5 This is the pillow that Delta gives out, correct? Α Yes. 6 7 Only one pillow, correct? Q 8 Α Yes. 9 I had my own pillow so I could sleep on it. 10 Q You say, so I placed -- you told the officer, so I placed 11 the pillow between us and I kept waking up from something. 12 Correct, you told that to a police officer? 13 Α Yes. 14 Do you know now what you kept waking up from? 15 Α Yes. 16 Q Did you know then what you kept waking up from? 17 Α No. 18 But every time I woke up, I was disturbed by his 19 hand. I didn't want it to touch me. 20 Q Did you tell him? 21 Α No. 22 Q Did you tell a stewardess? 23 Α No; I thought he's doing this by mistake. 24 Q Was it bothering you? 25 Α Yes, a lot.

### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 49 So it's bothering you a lot but you don't like get up to 1 Q 2 go to the bathroom and maybe wake him up that way? 3 Α Yes. 4 It is bothering you a lot but you don't wake him up and say could you move your hand, please? 5 6 Α Yes. I regret that now. 7 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection, Your Honor. 8 Q At first --9 MR. SARRATT: I --10 THE COURT: Overruled. 11 At first I didn't think he was brushing up on me on 12 purpose, that's what you told the agent? 13 Α Yes. Or the police officer. 14 15 Did you ever ask him to stop brushing up against you? 16 17 Α No. 18 Q I then fell asleep. You told the police officer you then 19 fell asleep, correct? 20 Α Yes. 21 Obviously, you had to be awake before you fall asleep 22 again; is that correct? 23 Α That's right. 24 Q How long were you awake before you fell asleep again? 25 I don't know. Α

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		Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld	50
1	Q	So when you fall asleep this time, how long are you	
2	slee	ping before you feel a hand on your groin?	
3	Α	I don't know. I just know I fell asleep deeper than	
4	befo	re.	
5	Q	You fell asleep?	
6	Α	Deeper than before. I don't know time.	
7	Q	Now you are in a deep sleep, is that correct?	
8	Α	Deeper; I am not sure how deep.	
9	Q	Your body is covered with a blanket, correct?	
10	Α	Yes.	
11	Q	Is your head covered with a blanket?	
12	Α	Yes.	
13	Q	Are you on the tray table?	
14	Α	Yes.	
15	Q	Can you demonstrate for the Court using the blanket and	Ł
16	usin	g the podium as a tray table how you were positioned?	
17	Α	Yes. Like this (indicating).	
18	Q	If I may, indicating the blanket totally covering her	
19	head	and body with her head down on the podium, which is	
20	supp	osed to be a tray table?	
21		THE WITNESS: Yes. But not from the side.	
22		THE COURT: Sustained.	
23		THE WITNESS: Excuse me.	
24		But not from the side.	
25		MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I'll just make a record	of

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 51 the objection. Your Honor has already sustained it. 1 2 blanket did not indicate that it was covering her whole body. So noted. 3 THE COURT: 4 Q The blanket was covering your head and upper body, is that correct? 5 Α 6 Yes. 7 Did the blanket cover your lap as well? Q 8 Not covered, reached to it. Α 9 Q Pardon? 10 It's not covering. It's not like when it's -- lies upon Α 11 me. Because it's kind of makes a tent so I am not sure what 12 covering. 13 Q Can you open up the blanket all the way, please? 14 Is it folded in or is it open all the way? No. It's open all the way. 15 Α 0h. 16 Okay. When you have it over you, do you have it 17 lengthwise or long --18 Α Long-wise. 19 Q Long-wise. Okay. 20 You had it over you long-wise covering your head? 21 Α Yes. 22 How much of the blanket was past your head? Q 23 Α I don't know. Enough to hold it with my back probably, 24 but I am not sure. 25 Q So it's covering your head and it is covering part of

### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 52 your lap, correct? 1 2 Lap is --3 (Interpreter interprets.) 4 I think it was on the tray. So I think not. But I am Α not sure. 5 Q You then told the police officer, and woke up abruptly 6 7 from him grabbing my groin. 8 What position were you in before you felt this? 9 Α I don't know. I was asleep. 10 Q With your head down on the tray table? 11 Α Yes. 12 With a blanket covering you? Q 13 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, the same objection, I 14 guess, to the extent the question assumes the blanket was 15 covering her whole body. 16 THE COURT: I will overrule the objection. 17 Q Now, what position was the defendant in at this point? 18 After I was startled and I jumped, he -- he was lying on 19 his side, on his left side, and covering his head with a 20 blanket. 21 His whole head was covered with blanket? 22 Α Not at first. He covered it after he jumped also. 23 Q Do you know if he was wearing a seat belt? 24 Α No, I don't remember. Probably not. 25 Q But you don't know for sure whether he's wearing one or

### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 53 not? 1 2 Α No. 3 Q How long did he have -- withdrawn. How long did you feel a hand on your groin before 4 5 you woke up? 6 I am not sure how long did it take me to fully awake up 7 and understand what's going on around me. But I believe 8 several seconds. It's not -- when you touch like this 9 (indicating). It was there. 10 Q Which hand was on your groin? 11 The groin, I am not sure. But I -- okay. 12 You don't know which hand of his was on your groin, 13 correct? 14 No. I am not sure about that. I can assume it's the right hand but I am not sure. 15 16 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection. 17 Q Did you -- did you see his hand on your groin? 18 Α I can see him taking his hand away. 19 But you never saw his hand on your groin, correct? 20 Α No. 21 Q You told the police officer, so at that point I pretended 22 to be sleeping, correct? 23 Α Yes. 24 So you were playacting, correct? Q 25 Α Yes.

#### 54 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 At this point you had some doubts whether he touched you Q 2 or not, correct? 3 Α No. 4 Q You had doubts whether he touched you on purpose or not? Yes. 5 Α 6 Q You weren't sure if he's sleeping or not, correct? Well, I was -- it's not that I wasn't sure. But I wanted 7 Α 8 to -- I wanted to see if it's -- if it only happened once or 9 is it happening or will happen again. 10 Q So you are fully awake at this time, correct? 11 Α Yes. 12 What position are you in now? Q 13 I think I was sitting, just like that. Α 14 Q You were sitting back? 15 Α Yes. 16 Q Your head wasn't on the tray table at this point? 17 Α No. 18 Q Were you covered by a blanket? 19 Α Yes. 20 Q What part of your body was covered by the blanket? 21 The same thing, from the head. Α 22 Q Your face was covered also, correct? 23 Α Yes. 24 Q So you couldn't see anything, correct?

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I couldn't -- I could see what's under the blanket.

25

Α

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 55 1 But you couldn't see the -- in front of the blanket, Q 2 correct? 3 Α That is correct. 4 Q You can't see through these blanket? 5 They are not see-through, correct? Α No. 6 7 Q It's pretty dark on this plane, correct? 8 Α Yes. 9 Q So before you tried to test him, did he have a blanket on him? 10 11 Α Yes. 12 Was his head covered with the blanket? Q 13 Α At the first time I am not sure. 14 The second time, when you are testing him, was his head Q 15 covered with a blanket? 16 I don't know. 17 Q Was it up to his neck? 18 Α When I took my blanket off, when I -- when I felt his 19 hand on my chest, then I saw him with a blanket over his head. 20 Q What about his tray table, up or down? 21 Α I don't know. 22 Q What about your tray table, up or down? 23 Α I don't remember. 24 Q Then you told the officer, and he reached over to me 25 underneath my blanket and began to massage my breast.

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 56 You told him that? 1 2 Yes. Α 3 How much time elapsed from the time you started to 4 pretend to be asleep when you felt that someone was massaging your breasts? 5 6 A short time. I am not sure. Maybe a minute or 7 something like that. 8 Did you tell Agent Ambrisco that it was several minutes 9 later? 10 I don't remember. But it can be a minute or two. I was really stressed so I am not sure how much time did it take. 11 12 Q About? 13 Α But I didn't have to wait long, if that's what you mean. Was it several minutes or several seconds? 14 Q 15 I can't tell. I don't know. Α 16 Did you ever see his hand on your breast? Q 17 Α Yes. 18 Q Was it his right hand or left hand? 19 Α It was his right hand. 20 You are sitting back at this point? Q 21 Α Yes. 22 Q You are sitting back at this point and you feel a hand 23 coming under your blanket, correct? 24 Α Yes. 25 You do nothing at this point, correct?

## Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 57 1 Well, at the moment he touched my breast. 2 I am asking at the moment -- you actually feel the blanket being moved, correct, because you are fully awake? 3 4 It happened real fast. I mean, it's not that -- it's not 5 that it took him a long time to put his hand under my blanket. So --6 7 You are fully awake and you are expecting, maybe even 8 hoping, that he touches you, correct? 9 Α Yes. 10 MR. SARRATT: Objection, Your Honor. 11 I don't think he can ask what she is hoping. 12 THE COURT: Overruled. 13 Q You are testing him, right? 14 Α Yes. 15 You know that your blanket may move for his hand to go 16 there, correct? 17 Α Yes. 18 Q You actually feel the blanket move, correct? 19 Α Probably I did. 20 Q But you don't do anything at that point? 21 Α Yes. 22 You feel his hand approaching you and you don't do 23 anything at that point? 24 Α Yes. 25 Q You feel his hand on your breast; do you do anything

		Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld	58
1	then?		
2	Α	Yes.	
3	Q	What do you do?	
4	Α	I got up, I took the blanket off my head and told him	
5	that	he's touching me and I asked him what he's doing.	
6	Q	As soon as he touches your breast, you do that, correct	?
7	Α	Yes.	
8	Q	He is not massaging your breast, is that correct?	
9	Α	It was it wasn't a long massage, but it was a massag	е
10	grabbing.		
11	Q	You told the police officer he massaged your breast,	
12	correct?		
13	Α	Well, yes. Because it massaging doesn't have to tak	е
14	an hour. When it just he touched me for a second, but		
15	it was enough for him to move his head several hand several		al
16	time	S.	
17	Q	He touched you for a split second, right?	
18	Α	Not a split second, no.	
19	Q	How long did he touch you for?	
20	Α	I think two seconds.	
21	Q	So you allowed a perfect stranger to touch you for two	
22	seco	nds to test him?	
23	Α	It's not that I allowed that. It's not exactly an easy	
24	thin	g to grasp and handle immediately. So I probably was in	
25	some	sort of shock for a second. But then I did what I	

### 59 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 planned doing. 2 Certainly, you didn't let anyone linger on your breasts, 3 correct? 4 Yes, that's right. 5 Q Certainly, if you were awake and aware, you would never 6 let anyone massage your breasts, correct? 7 Α What did you mean by massaging? 8 It's the word you used. Q 9 Α So what do you mean by that? I know what I meant. 10 Q What do you mean by massage? I meant by the movement, the way you massage people, when 11 12 you do like this. So this is what he had done to my breast. 13 He didn't do it for an hour. He did it for a second or two. 14 But that's what he did. Q 15 Is it a touch, is it a squeeze, is it a massage? 16 Α A squeeze. 17 Q A squeeze? 18 Α But --19 But you said massage, correct? 20 Yes. Α 21 Q But it is not massage, correct? 22 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I think this has been 23 asked and answered. 24 THE COURT: Sustained. You then say to the police officer, you looked up to see 25 Q

## 60 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld him looking at me from under his blanket, correct? 1 2 Yes. When I took the blanket off my head, I could see 3 him. 4 Q Was his head covered with a blanket at that point? Yes. The side part of his head. 5 Α 6 () So his side of the head is covered with a blanket and you 7 are able to see that he was still looking at you? 8 Yes. The front of his face was heading towards me. 9 the blanket is here, you can see from the side. 10 Q What's the lighting conditions like at this time on the plane? 11 I was able the see him clearly. I am not sure about how 12 13 dark it was. 14 Q You didn't have the overhead light on, did you? Α I don't know. 15 16 It's pretty dark on these planes, correct? 17 Α No. 18 Then you say, then I erupted from my seat yelling at him, 19 correct? 20 Α I don't think I said that. Because I wasn't yelling. 21 Okay. Would it refresh your recollection to look at the 22 statement that the officer wrote that you gave on March 27, 23 2011, at 5:30 in the morning? 24 Α No. Because I --25 MR. SARRATT: Objection.

## 61 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 I don't think there has been any establishment that 2 she has a lack of recollection. So there is no need to 3 refresh it. She stated what happened. 4 THE COURT: Do you remember what you told the officer? 5 THE WITNESS: Yes. 6 7 THE COURT: That took your statement? 8 THE WITNESS: Yes. 9 THE COURT: Did you tell him that you erupted from 10 your seat yelling at him? 11 I told him that I took the THE WITNESS: No. 12 blanket off my head and I was not yelling but speaking, I can 13 say with attitude, with a firm attitude. I mean, I wasn't 14 speaking -- I was not whispering or speaking softly or 15 anything. I was -- but I was not shouting. I was not 16 yelling. 17 THE COURT: Okay. Continue. 18 Q Did you tell us before that the words that you told to 19 the police officer were transcribed on this piece of paper? 20 Α That I dictated? 21 Q Yes. 22 Α Yes. 23 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I don't think there has 24 been any word -- any mention of transcription. 25 THE COURT: That objection is sustained.

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# Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld

I think the testimony is that the statement was in Ms. Lechtman's words dictated.

- 3 MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor.
- 4 Q Was the officer writing down what you were saying as you 5 were dictating it?
- 6 A Well, I don't think it was word-by-word. Because after
- 7 reading it later, I couldn't find my own words in everything.
- 8 But the -- the basic story is there.
- 9 Q You read it before you signed it?
- 10 A I don't -- I think briefly, but I don't think I read --
- 11 | Q You did sign it, correct?
- 12 A Yes.

1

2

- 13 | Q You know that -- did they explain to you that if there is
- 14 something wrong in there that it's punishable by a Class A
- 15 | misdemeanor, before you signed it?
- 16 A No. But there are words there that only afterwards I
- 17 understand that can be interpreted to other meanings.
- 18 Q Did you read the words, I erupted from my seat yelling at
- 19 him before you signed it?
- 20 A I don't remember that.
- 21 Q Did you read the statement before you signed it?
- 22 A I believe I did.
- 23 Q Okay. If the words I erupted from my seat yelling at him
- 24 | are on the statement, that would not be correct?
- 25 A It's a long article to -- for me to read in English. So

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	Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 63	
1	I probably didn't understand it or something like that. It's	
2	not easy for me to take this document and just read it and	
3	understand it the way I do literally.	
4	Q Did you know that they were going to use this document,	
5	similar document, to prosecute somebody?	
6	A I assumed so, yes.	
7	Q Did you think it was important to get the facts straight?	
8	A Yes.	
9	Q When you read, then I erupted from my seat yelling at him	
10	before you signed it, if you knew it wasn't correct, why did	
11	you sign it?	
12	MR. SARRATT: Objection; asked and answered.	
13	THE COURT: Overruled.	
14	A I don't remember the word yelling. I thought I think	
15	he probably misunderstood me. I might have read it and	
16	thought it was something else.	
17	Q You say in the statement, with him still pretending to be	
18	sleeping, is that true?	
19	A When do you mean after after I got up?	
20	Q The statement reads, then I erupted from my seat yelling	
21	at him with him still pretending to be sleeping.	
22	We established that you didn't yell, correct?	
23	A Yes.	
24	Q Was he still pretending to be sleeping?	
25	A Pretending to be, yes. He tried closing his eyes and	

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# Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld

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- 1 | put -- tried covering his head with the blanket.
- 2 Q Didn't you then say to him, what, you want me to believe
- 3 this is a mistake?
- 4 A No.
- 5 Q Did you say to him, you are telling me this is a mistake?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q Did you say to him, you're telling me this is an
- 8 | accident?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q What did you say to him?
- 11 A I told him, what are you doing, you're touching me. And
- 12 he said no, no. It's a mistake. I'm sleeping, while he tries
- 13 | covering his head with his blanket. Then I took the blanket
- 14 off his head and I told him, you're not asleep. It's not a
- 15 mistake. You touched me. You have been doing this the whole
- 16 | flight and I am going to tell the flight attendant. Now move.
- 17 | That's all I said.
- 18 | Q When you took the blanket off his head, were his eyes
- 19 open or closed?
- 20 A He tried closing them really hard like this. He tried
- 21 | not to open them.
- 22 | Q His eyes were closed when you took the blanket off his
- 23 | head, correct?
- 24 | A Yes.
- 25 | Q You then saw him get up and go to the rear of the plane,

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#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 65 1 correct? 2 To the galley, to the flight attendant. 3 Q No. Him. 4 Α What about him? The man sitting next to you, he then got up to let you 5 Q out. correct? 6 7 I went above him. Α No. 8 Q You climbed over him? 9 Α Yes. 10 Q When you went to go to the galley, what did he do? I don't know. 11 Α 12 Okay. In your statement did you say, he then got up and Q 13 moved to the rear of the plane? 14 Α Yes, you can assume that because when I told --I am asking you if you told --15 Q 16 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor --17 Α That's what happened. 18 MR. SARRATT: I don't believe the witness was 19 finished with her answer. 20 MR. BIENENFELD: I apologize, Your Honor. 21 THE COURT: You can answer the question. Continue 22 with what you were saying. 23 Α He had to use getting up and walking in order to get 24 there because two minutes afterwards when the flight attendant 25 told me do you recognize him, she told me he wasn't on his

ı		
	Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 66	
1	seat and she took me to the back of the plane and he stood	
2	there. So he went there.	
3	Q But you do understand that's not how the statement read.	
4	The statement reads he said no, no, it's a mistake. He then	
5	got up and moved to the rear of the plane.	
6	A So the man didn't write everything I said.	
7	Q But you had an opportunity to read this before signing	
8	it, correct?	
9	A Yes.	
10	Q You didn't see any errors there?	
11	MR. SARRATT: Objection, Your Honor; asked and	
12	answered.	
13	She's explained exactly what the statement means.	
14	THE COURT: Sustained.	
15	I got the point.	
16	A He left it there.	
17	THE COURT: No.	
18	THE WITNESS: Okay.	
19	Q Are there restrooms located in the back of the plane?	
20	A I don't know.	
21	Q You then had an opportunity to go to a stewardess and	
22	tell her what happened, correct?	
23	A Yes.	
24	Q Do you know her name?	
25	A No.	

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 67 1 Q Have you seen her since that flight? 2 Α I have seen her outside today. 3 Q Outside the courtroom today? 4 Α Yes. 5 Q Did you see her yesterday? I think she passed by me. But I wasn't sure it was her. 6 Α 7 Q Have you spoken to her since the flight? No. 8 Α 9 Q The --10 I just said hi, and then they took me to the back of the -- but we had no conversation. 11 12 When you were on the plane, you told her that some guy 13 next to you was constantly waking you up, correct? 14 Α I told her he touched me. 15 Q Did you tell her --16 I'm sorry. I can't remember exactly what I told her. 17 just -- I remember telling her he touched me and then I 18 remember her asking me what happened and I think I told her, 19 but I don't remember exactly what I said to her. 20 You don't remember if you told her that he touched your 21 groin, correct? 22 Α I told her that. She asked me where and I told her. 23 Q What did you tell her? 24 Α I told her in the groin and in the chest. 25 Q At some point they changed your seat, correct?

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 68 Yes. 1 Α 2 At first you are seated, what did you call that seat, the 3 jump seat? 4 Α Yes. I couldn't stay there long. Then they brought you up to business class, 5 Q 6 right? 7 Α Yes. 8 Q You had a business class seat for the rest of the flight? 9 Α Yes. 10 Q How long was the rest of the flight? 11 From what I've been told, about an hour and a half, maybe 12 two hours. 13 Q How long were you in the jump seat beforehand? 14 I don't know. Α 15 Now, in the army you've had combat training, correct? Q 16 Α Yes. 17 You've had hand-to-hand self-defense training, correct? Q 18 Α Yes. 19 Q Have you ever auditioned for a realty TV show in Israel? 20 Auditioned? We have Israeli Idol there. So, yes, if Α 21 that's what you call reality show. 22 Q It's our American Idol, correct? 23 Α Yes. 24 Q In Hebrew, it is called kochav nolad? 25 Yes. Α

	Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 69
1	Q Did you tell the government, the US Attorney, about this?
2	A No.
3	Q So you auditioned for an American Idol type of show,
4	correct?
5	A Yes.
6	Q You were in the finals, correct?
7	A No.
8	Q You were pretty close to getting on to Israeli TV,
9	correct?
10	A Yes.
11	Q You would have been on TV had you made the next cut,
12	correct?
13	A That's right.
14	Q You would agree with me, that contestants on this show
15	are pretty well known people in Israel, correct?
16	A Yes.
17	Q You wanted to be on that show as well, is that correct?
18	A Yes.
19	Q You are a very good singer, correct?
20	A I think I am, yes.
21	MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I am just not clear as to
22	the relevance of her singing ability.
23	THE COURT: Neither am I.
24	Q You are somebody who was seeking fame in Israel, correct?
25	A No.

## 70 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld You wanted to be on the show, correct? 1 Q 2 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I --3 Would you like me to explain why? I can. 4 MR. SARRATT: Relevance. I object. THE COURT: Overruled. 5 6 Q You wanted to be on the show, correct? 7 Α When --8 Yes or no? 9 Well, it was about six years ago when I was 17. So then, 10 ves. 11 You wanted the fame that everyone else has from that 12 show, correct? 13 No. I wanted to be a professional singer. I wanted to be 14 a song writer and a singer. I don't seek fame. 15 THE COURT: What's the point of this? 16 MR. BIENENFELD: Just is she seeking fame, Your 17 Honor. She is someone who seeks fame. She tries out for 18 reality TV shows. She wants to be well-known. 19 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I don't think there is --20 THE COURT: Let's move on. 21 MR. SARRATT: Thank you. 22 Q How did you come to New York for this trial? 23 What airline did you fly? 24 Α Delta. 25 Who paid for the ticket? Q

#### 71 Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 1 Α I am not sure. I think it's the plane company. 2 Delta paid for it? Q 3 Α I think so. 4 Q And you are staying in a hotel in New York, correct? Α Yes. 5 6 Q Delta paid for the hotel also, correct? I am not sure. No one told me actually who is paying for 7 Α 8 it. 9 Q Did you ever think about suing Delta Airlines about this incident? 10 11 Α No. 12 Did you ever sign a release of Delta Airlines in order to 13 get a seat on the plane? 14 A what? Α Did you ever consider suing Delta Airlines over this 15 16 incident? 17 THE COURT: Sustained; asked and answered. 18 Q Did you have to sign a waiver saying that you won't sue 19 Delta Airlines in order for them to fly you in for this trial? 20 Α No. I --21 You have spoken to attorneys in Israel about suing Rabbi 22 Bidany civilly, correct? 23 Α Yes. 24 They told you you needed to have a conviction here in 25 order to make that case in Israel, correct?

#### Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 72 1 Each one of them practically said something else. 2 most of them told me that. 3 Did you ever describe to anyone in the government the 4 FBI, the police, the US Attorney, that Rabbi Bidany had curls? Probably, yes. 5 Α 6 Q By curls, do you mean peyot? 7 Α I thought, yes. 8 Q And that would be the side curls that some rabbis have? 9 Α Yes. 10 Q So when you are describing him, you described him as 11 someone who may have these side curls, correct? 12 Α Yes. 13 Q Clearly he doesn't, correct? 14 Α Yes. When you first got on the plane, you were talking to the 15 Q 16 lady next to you, correct? 17 Α That's right. 18 Q She was chatting you up, correct? 19 Α Yes. 20 Q Then eventually she fell asleep, correct? 21 Α Yes. 22 Q When he, Rabbi Bidany, sat next to you, you just offered 23 him a napkin, correct? 24 Α Later, yes. 25 Did you have a conversation about when your food arrived?

## Lechtman-cross-Bienenfeld 73 I don't remember talking to him. 1 Α 2 Q You ordered a vegetarian meal, correct? Yes. 3 Α 4 Q Your meal on this flight came before his meal, correct? Yes. 5 Α And did you offer him some of your food? 6 Q 7 I don't remember. I think not. Α 8 MR. BIENENFELD: If I could just have one moment, Your Honor? 9 10 THE COURT: Yes. 11 (Pause.) 12 When you went to complain to the Delta employee right 13 after this incident, did you tell her that you wanted him 14 arrested? I am not sure about the term. But she asked me if I want 15 this to be taken care of. So probably said yes. 16 17 It was a Delta employee who offered you to have him 18 arrested, correct? 19 Α Yes. It wasn't your idea, correct? 20 21 Well, I wasn't sure how things are going in cases like 22 this -- like this. 23 Q You -- I'm sorry. 24 When I came talking to her, I assumed it's obvious I want 25 him to get arrested.

## Lechtman-redirect-Sarratt 74 1 Q Did you ask her how can I arrange for him to be arrested? 2 Α No. 3 Q When you claim that he touched your groin, was your 4 pillow still between the two seats? Α Yes. 5 6 Q Was his hand anywhere near that pillow? 7 Α I don't remember that hand. Probably not. 8 MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing further, Your Honor. 9 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, if I may just a very brief redirect? 10 11 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 12 BY MR. SARRATT: 13 Q Ms. Lechtman, you were asked a couple of questions by 14 Mr. Bienenfeld about whether it was possible on airplanes that 15 people accidentally fall asleep on each other. 16 Do you recall those questions? 17 Α Yes. 18 Is there any doubt in your mind as you sit here today 19 whether when the defendant touched your groin and your breasts 20 he was acting accidentally? 21 Α No. 22 You also -- you got asked a lot of questions about 23 whether you were yelling or speaking firmly. 24 Could you just describe, again, how it was that you 25 spoke?

# Lechtman-redirect-Sarratt 75 I was speaking the way I'm talking to my soldiers when 1 2 I'm angry, when they do a mistake. It's a firm attitude, 3 something you learn, something I practice. I can repeat it 4 just like I said it in Hebrew. Would you like that? I don't know. 5 Sure. Go ahead. Q 6 7 Α I said. 8 (Hebrew words spoken.) 9 THE INTERPRETER: What are you doing, you're 10 touching me. 11 THE WITNESS: Yes. Exactly what I said in English. 12 Like this. 13 Q Now, you were also asked a series of questions about 14 whether you had auditioned for a television show in Israel, right? 15 16 Yes. 17 Now, you were also asked if you told that to the US 18 Attorney. 19 Who did you understand that to mean? 20 Α You. 21 Did you tell the FBI about your audition for this 22 television show? I don't remember. I think not. 23 Α 24 Q Ms. Lechtman, are you seeking fame in this case? 25 This case is making my life really difficulty and this is

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# Lechtman-redirect-Sarratt

not the way I want to seek fame. I'm a military personality.

- 2 It was very hard for me to get here and especially someone
- 3 like me, maybe I'll pursue a career in entertaining later, but
- 4 now I'm in the military. I can't afford myself to be famous
- and there are a lot of consequences that if something like 5
- 6 that goes to media, this is the last thing I want because of
- my military position. 7
- 8 Mr. Bienenfeld asked you questions about whether you were
- 9 staying in a hotel.
- 10 Do you have any friends or family you could have
- stayed with here in New York? 11
- 12 Α No.
- 13 Q Do you have anyone here supporting you today?
- 14 Family and friends?
- Now, you were also asked questions about who paid for 15
- 16 your airline ticket and who paid for your hotel.
- 17 Are you aware of actually who paid for your ticket
- 18 and your hotel?
- 19 Α I assumed it was the plane company, but I don't know.
- Were you aware that it was the government who paid for 20
- 21 your ticket and your hotel?
- 22 Α No.
- 23 MR. SARRATT: Just one moment, Your Honor.
- 24 (Pause.)
- 25 MR. SARRATT: Ms. Lechtman, thank you for your

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Lechtman-redirect-Sarratt
                                                                  77
    testimony. I don't have any more questions for you.
1
 2
              THE WITNESS: Can I --
 3
              MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing.
 4
              THE COURT: You are excused. Thank you.
               (Witness excused.)
5
 6
              THE COURT: We are going to take a break. We are
7
    going to come back at ten minutes to 12:00.
8
               (Recess taken.)
9
               (After recess.)
10
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, at this point the
11
    government would request, given that the victim's testimony is
12
    concluded, that she be permitted to watch the remainder of the
13
    trial, if she chooses.
14
              THE COURT: Any objection?
              MR. BIENENFELD: No, Your Honor.
15
16
              THE COURT: Okay. I will allow it.
17
              MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor.
18
              Your Honor, the government calls Christine Ferro.
19
              THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.
20
               (The witness is duly sworn/affirmed by the Court.)
21
              THE COURT: Please be seated.
22
              Please state and spell your name for the record.
23
               (Continued on next page.)
24
25
              THE WITNESS: Christine Ferro, C H R I S T I N E,
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#### Ferro-direct-Sarratt 78 1 FERRO. 2 DIRECT EXAMINATION 3 BY MR. SARRATT: 4 Q Good morning, Ms. Ferro. Good morning. 5 Α Q There is still one minute left. 6 7 Ms. Ferro, where do you live? 8 Right outside New Orleans. Α 9 Q Are you employed? 10 Α Yes. 11 What's your job? Q A flight attendant with Delta Airlines. 12 Α 13 Q How long have you been a flight attendant? 14 Α Almost fourteen years. 15 Q Has that been a continuous fourteen years? 16 In December of 2005, I took a five-year leave and just returned to flying March 1st of this year. 17 18 Q But you consider yourself an experienced flight attendant? 19 20 Α Yes. 21 I want to direct your attention to March 26th and 27th of 22 this year. 23 Do you recall whether you were working on those 24 days? Yes, I was. 25

#### 79 Ferro-direct-Sarratt 1 Q What flight were you working? 2 Α I was on my way back from Tel Aviv to JFK. 3 Q Tel Aviv, Israel? 4 Α Yes. Do you recall what type of aircraft you were flying that 5 6 night? 7 A 747. Α 8 What time of day did this flight leave? 9 Α Late at night. 10 Q So it arrives in JFK the next morning? 11 Α Early in the morning, yes. 12 Ms. Ferro, were you assigned to work in a particular 13 section of the aircraft? 14 I was assigned to the coach cabin. 15 I want to show you now what's been admitted as 16 Government's Exhibit 1, if I could on the Elmo. 17 Are you able to see a diagram on the screen in front 18 of you there? 19 Α Yes. 20 If you are able to see it clearly enough, I will just ask 21 you, does this appear to you to accurately reflect the layout 22 of that 747 aircraft that you were working on board from 23 Tel Aviv that evening? 24 Α Yes, it does. 25 Now, Ms. Ferro, I am going to show you the second page of

# Ferro-direct-Sarratt 80 this document, which is just a slightly bigger version of the 1 2 same thing. 3 I will ask you to just indicate by touching the 4 screen in front of you where it was that you were in general assigned to work on that flight? 5 6 The jump seat that I was assigned to was up at this 7 However, I am assigned to work the whole cabin and 8 I served this side of the airplane. 9 Just touch the side of the airplane you are referring to. 10 MR. SARRATT: Okay. Your Honor, may the record 11 reflect that the witness is touching the -- what is the right 12 side of the aircraft. I believe as you look -- as you look 13 backward on the plane. 14 THE WITNESS: As you look forward. MR. SARRATT: I apologize, Your Honor. As you look 15 16 forward. 17 THE COURT: Let's characterize the side of where 18 seats H, J and K are. Is that correct? 19 THE WITNESS: Yes. 20 MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor. 21 If you will push the -- I think I can do it, actually. 22 I have now cleared those marks, but I will ask you, 23 which galley were you using in connection with your service on 24 that plane? 25 These galleys right here.

#### Ferro-direct-Sarratt 81 1 Q Okay. What do you call that galley? 2 Galley number three. 3 Is that galley the one that is at approximately 4 row 51 on the aircraft? Yes, it is. 5 Α 6 MR. SARRATT: May the record reflect the witness has 7 made a mark at approximately row 51 on the aircraft on the 8 galley. 9 THE COURT: So noted. 10 Q Ms. Ferro, did there came a point during this flight when one of the passengers on board approached you? 11 Yes. 12 Α 13 Where were you in the aircraft when that happened? Q 14 Α I was in this galley by myself. 15 Q Is that the same place that you just indicated on the 16 exhibit? 17 Α Yes, it is. 18 Q I think you called it galley three, is that right? Yes. 19 Α 20 If you could, could you describe the woman, or the 21 person, excuse me, who approached you? 22 Α Yes. 23 It was a young female with long dark blond hair and 24 short in stature, about five-one, five-two. 25 Q If you saw that person, do you think you'd be able to

## Ferro-direct-Sarratt 82 recognize them? 1 2 Yes. 3 Q Do you see that person in the courtroom? 4 Α I can't see all the way to the back. Yes, I do. 5 6 Q Could you describe her then? 7 Α Yes. 8 She has her hair pulled back, white T-shirt and 9 black sweater. 10 Q About how far back in the gallery is she sitting? 11 Second to last row, last row. THE COURT: Let the record reflect that Ms. Ferro 12 13 has pointed out who I believe to be Ms. Lechtman. Although I 14 think her shirt is blue. 15 THE WITNESS: Is it? 16 THE COURT: Not white. It's gray. 17 MR. SARRATT: It appears to be to be sort of gray 18 with maybe some markings. 19 THE COURT: The lighting is not so great back there. MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor. 20 21 THE COURT: Yes. 22 Were you able to observe Ms. Lechtman's demeanor as she 23 approached you? 24 Α Yes. 25 Q What was it?

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When I asked her where, she generally just said all

24

25

over, using her hands.

	Ferro-direct-Sarratt 84
1	Q What did you do at that point?
2	A I asked her where she was sitting. She told me her seat
3	was 52-B. I looked out from the galley and saw that the
4	her seat was empty and then the aisle seat was empty.
5	Q Which seats exactly are you referring to?
6	A The 52-B and C.
7	MR. SARRATT: May the record reflect that the
8	witness has made a mark near seats 52-B and C on the diagram?
9	THE COURT: So noted.
10	MR. SARRATT: It is Government Exhibits 1.
11	Q So I believe you just said a moment ago those seats were
12	then empty?
13	A Yes.
14	Q What did you do next?
15	A I asked her, I said I said his seat is empty. She
16	said he ran to the back of the airplane.
17	Q What did you do at that point?
18	A So I had her follow me and I said, as soon as you see
19	him, let me know who he is and then I sent her back to the
20	galley once she pointed him out to me.
21	Q She was able to point him out to you?
22	A She was.
23	Q Could you describe the person that she pointed out?
24	A Yes.
25	Looked like a man that would be from Israel, from

## Ferro-direct-Sarratt 85 Israel descent. The beard and -- and the height -- height I 1 2 guess is about five-ten or so. 3 Would you be able to identify that person if you saw him? 4 Α Yes. 5 Do you see that person in the courtroom today? Α I do. 6 7 Please indicate by an article of clothing or by Q 8 description who you are talking about. 9 Α The gentleman at the table over there with the white 10 beard, black jacket. 11 Long beard or short beard? 12 Α Long beard. 13 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may the record reflect that the witness has identified the defendant? 14 15 THE COURT: Yes. After Ms. Lechtman identified that person, what did you 16 do next? 17 18 I didn't want her to go by him. I had her return to the 19 galley. I went to approach the man, to try and confirm what 20 seat number he was in, but he did not speak English. 21 So you were unable to communicate with him? Q 22 Α Correct. 23 Q Did you then attempt to find the young woman a new seat? 24 Α Yes. 25 Well, I -- I informed the two other flight

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Was there ever a point where you discussed with her

24

25

contact with her.

87

Ferro-direct-Sarratt

whether she wanted law enforcement to meet the flight? 1

- 2 Α Yes, there was.
- 3 Q How did that conversation go?
- 4 I spoke -- I did speak to the two flight attendants, as I
- said, that were working the cabin with me and told them I 5
- 6 needed to go speak to the captain. Because when I was in that
- 7 three galley with her, I did ask her, I said do you want law
- 8 enforcement to meet the flight. She said yes, that man needs
- 9 to be arrested.
- 10 Q Did you then take steps to see that law enforcement would
- meet the flight? 11
- 12 Α I did.
- 13 Q What did you do?
- 14 I went up to the cockpit and told the captain that -- of
- the situation and told him that she would like law enforcement 15
- 16 to meet the flight.
- You mentioned, I believe, that you were unable to 17
- 18 communicate with the defendant because of a language barrier.
- 19 Is that right?
- 20 Α Correct.
- 21 Did anybody else that you know of then attempt to speak
- 22 with the defendant -- anyone else from the flight crew then
- 23 attempt to speak with the defendant?
- 24 Α Yes.
- 25 Aviel is the flight attendant that was on the flight

88

- 1 that spoke the language. So I -- he was one of the flight
- 2 attendants I informed of the situation and I asked him if he
- 3 needed to go speak with the man. So I understand he spoke
- 4 with the man as when I went up to the cockpit.
- 5 Q Okay. Now, after that point, did you have any other
- further interactions with the defendant? 6
- 7 I did not. Other than standing in the hallway after we
- got off the plane. 8
- 9 Q Okay. Did you have any further interactions,
- 10 conversations, with Ms. Lechtman?
- 11 Α No.
- 12 When the flight landed at JFK, are you aware whether law
- 13 enforcement did in fact meet the flight?
- 14 Α They did.
- When law enforcement met the flight, were you able to 15
- 16 observe who it was that they were questioning?
- 17 Α Yes.
- 18 They kept all the passengers seated on the airplane,
- 19 so that they could make sure he got to the door to meet the
- 20 law enforcement. So, yes, I was right there at -- near the
- 21 area and saw him go up.
- 22 Q When you say you saw him go up, who are you referring to?
- 23 Α The gentleman that I pointed out earlier.
- 24 I think you have said you have been a flight attendant
- 25 working for nearly nine years, is that right?

	Ferro-direct-Sarratt 89
1	A Yes.
2	Q How many flights would you say that you have been on over
3	the course of your career?
4	A Thousand, a thousand, fifteen hundred. Hard to count.
5	Q Fair to say, that on all those flights passengers are in
6	close quarters?
7	A Yes.
8	Q And the seats in the coach cabin, indeed on Delta, are
9	fairly close to one another, right?
10	A Yes.
11	Q On the fifteen hundred some odd flights that you have
12	been on, have you ever heard a complaint where a passenger
13	complained about a sexual assault like this?
14	MR. BIENENFELD: Objection.
15	THE COURT: Sustained.
16	Q Ms. Ferro, have you ever, to your personal knowledge,
17	have you ever been made aware of a situation in which one
18	passenger touched another and then claimed to be asleep?
19	A No.
20	MR. BIENENFELD: Objection.
21	MR. SARRATT: Thank you for your testimony,
22	Ms. Ferro.
23	MR. BIENENFELD: I have an objection to that last
24	question. I don't know if you want to make a ruling.
25	THE COURT: I will overrule it.

## 90 Ferro-cross-Bienenfeld CROSS-EXAMINATION 1 2 BY MR. BIENENFELD: 3 Q Good afternoon, Ms. Ferro. 4 Α Hello. My name is Saul Bienenfeld. I represent Rabbi Bidany in 5 this matter. 6 7 I ask you to take a look at the screen in front of 8 you. 9 Galley three, how close is that to seat 52 C? 10 Α Fairly close. That's diagonal from it. 11 Q How many steps away would you say it is? 12 Α Four. 13 Q You were in galley three, correct? 14 Α Yes. 15 You were in galley three when this woman came in yelling, 16 correct? 17 Α Yes. 18 Q In your experience as a flight attendant, almost 1500 19 flights or maybe more, how many of them were night flights or 20 otherwise known as red-eyes? 21 I would say, maybe 35 to 40 percent. 22 How many times have you flown Tel Aviv-New York or 23 Tel Aviv-Atlanta route? 24 Tel Aviv-New York, this was actually my second trip to 25 Tel Aviv. The other one was in 2001.

#### Ferro-cross-Bienenfeld 91 What about Tel Aviv-Atlanta, have you taken that? 1 Q 2 I have not. 3 THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter missed the last 4 question. MR. BIENENFELD: How about Tel Aviv-Atlanta. 5 6 Q On night flights passengers usually fall asleep? 7 Α Yes. 8 Q You have observed them falling asleep, correct? 9 Α Yes. 10 Q When passengers fall asleep sometimes a passenger could 11 lean on the other passenger? 12 Α I suppose. 13 Q Have you seen that? 14 Α Yes. 15 And on these night flights they give out blankets, is 16 that correct? 17 Α They do. 18 Q This flight Tel Aviv to New York has a red blanket with a 19 Delta name on it? 20 Α Yes. 21 Have you seen passengers on these night flights that you 22 have taken where they take a blanket and they cover their heads with it? 23 24 Α I have seen that. 25 Q These blankets aren't see through, correct?

### 92 Ferro-cross-Bienenfeld Correct. 1 Α 2 What is the lighting conditions like -- withdrawn. 3 On the Delta 269 flight from Tel Aviv to JFK that we 4 are talking about on this day, what were the lighting 5 conditions like prior to this woman coming in and screaming? 6 It was fairly dark in the cabin. 7 () This flight takes places throughout darkness, as the plane travels, correct? 8 9 Α Yes. 10 Although it leaves close to midnight, a little after midnight Israel time, it's constantly flying into darkness 11 12 until it lands at dawn, correct? 13 Α Right. 14 So even if windows are open, it is still dark in the 15 cabin? 16 Yes. Α 17 Did you notice if the overhead light of 52 A, B or C was 18 on at this time? 19 Α I couldn't tell you. 20 Q Are the bathrooms towards the back of the cabin, the back 21 of the plane? 22 Α Yes, they are. 23 Q Now, when this woman came in to you when you were in the 24 galley, she said to you when you asked her where the man was 25 before you walked out, she said to you, he ran to the back of

# Ferro-redirect-Sarratt 93 1 the airplane, correct? 2 Yes. 3 MR. BIENENFELD: I have nothing further, Your Honor. 4 MR. SARRATT: Very brief redirect, Your Honor. REDIRECT EXAMINATION 5 BY MR. SARRATT: 6 7 When you are working in the galley and the young woman 8 approached you, what were you doing? 9 It was a quite time. Half the crew was on break. It is 10 just the time we are there just to monitor the cabin if 11 anybody comes in, wants something to drink or --12 Were you able to see what you were doing? Q 13 Α Yes. 14 Were there lights on in the galley? 15 Α In the galley, yes. 16 I believe Mr. Bienenfeld asked you a question about 17 whether it was -- what the lighting was like on the plane at 18 that point. 19 How dark was it? 20 The lighting switch would be on a night switch, which --21 there are faint lights throughout the cabin and actually being 22 that close to the galley, those seats are probably a bit 23 brighter than say seats further away from the galley. 24 Q Would you say it was pitch black on there? 25 Not pitch black, no.

#### Ferro-recross-Bienenfeld 94 1 Was it so dark you couldn't see the hand in front of your Q 2 face? 3 Α No. 4 () Were you able to -- was the lighting sufficient so that passengers could see well enough to get around? 5 Α Yes. 6 7 So that they could navigate the plane safely? Q 8 Α Yes. And when you walked to the back of the plane with 9 10 Ms. Lechtman, did you have any trouble seeing where you were going? 11 12 No, not at all. 13 MR. SARRATT: I have no further questions, Your 14 Honor. 15 MR. BIENENFELD: Brief recross, Your Honor. 16 RECROSS EXAMINATION. 17 BY MR. BIENENFELD: 18 Q You said that the lights were on in the galley, correct? 19 Α Yes. 20 And the lights on in the galley project some light to the 21 outside, correct? 22 Α Yes. 23 Q So if someone was in the galley they could see what 24 happens in row 52, correct? 25 If I had my head out of the galley.

```
Ferro
                                                                  95
         If your head was out of the galley, you could see what's
1
    Q
 2
    happening in row 52?
 3
    Α
         Right.
              MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing further.
 4
              MR. SARRATT: One more.
 5
    REDIRECT EXAMINATION
 6
 7
    MR. SARRATT:
8
         Ms. Ferro --
9
               THE COURT: You promise, just one?
10
              MR. SARRATT: It is a promise.
         Was your head in the galley or out of the galley?
11
    Q
12
         It was in the galley.
13
              MR. SARRATT: Thank you.
14
    RECROSS-EXAMINATION
    BY MR. BIENENFELD:
15
16
         Was the curtain drawn or open?
17
              THE COURT: What curtain?
18
               MR. BIENENFELD: Okay. Sorry, Your Honor.
19
    Q
         Is there a curtain that could be drawn on the galley?
20
    Α
         There is.
21
    Q
         That would block the light to the outside?
22
    Α
         It would help dim it some.
23
    Q
         Was the curtain open or closed?
24
    Α
         I believe it was closed.
25
               MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing further.
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```
Silber - direct - Sarratt
                                                                  96
              THE COURT: All right.
1
 2
              MR. SARRATT: We have nothing further for the
 3
    witness.
 4
              Thank you, Your Honor.
              THE COURT: Thank you. You are excused.
 5
              THE WITNESS: Thank you.
 6
7
               (Witness excused.)
8
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, at this time the
9
    government calls Aviel Silber.
10
              THE COURT: Mr. Silber, please stand and raise your
11
    right hand.
12
               (The witness is duly sworn/affirmed by the Court.)
13
              THE COURT: Please be seated.
14
              Please state and spell your name for the record.
15
              THE WITNESS: First name is Aviel, A V I E L, last
16
    name is Silber, S I L B E R.
17
    DIRECT EXAMINATION
18
    BY MR. SARRATT:
         Good afternoon, Mr. Silber.
19
20
               I'll ask that you just, so that the court reporter
21
    could get it down, you make sure all your answers are verbal.
22
              Mr. Silber, where do you live?
23
    Α
         I live in Queens, New York.
24
    Q
         Are you employed?
25
         I am.
    Α
```

GR OCR CM CRR CSR

#### 97 Silber - direct - Sarratt 1 Q What's your employment? 2 Α I am a flight attendant for Delta Airlines. 3 Q How long have you been a flight attendant with Delta? 4 Α Just over three years. January 2008, I started. 5 Q Mr. Silber, are there particular routes that you typically fly with Delta? 6 7 Yes. 8 I fly mainly routes to Tel Aviv, Israel, Frankfort 9 and Berlin, Germany and Zurich, Switzerland. 10 Q Why is it that you are assigned to those particular 11 routes? 12 I'm -- as a flight attendant with Delta, I am qualified 13 as an LOD flight attendant, what they call a language of this 14 nation, which means I speak several languages and, therefore, 15 Delta chooses to use me for those routes which I speak the 16 language of destination. 17 Q What language is -- what languages are you talking about? 18 Α I am qualified with both Hebrew, German and French. 19 Q How did you come to speak Hebrew? 20 Α I grew up in Israel most of my life. 21 Q Were you born in Israel? 22 Α I was born here in the United States. 23 Q What would you say is your first language? 24 Α Hebrew. 25 Q Do you also feel comfortable conversing in English?

### Silber - direct - Sarratt 98 1 Α Yes, definitely. 2 Equally comfortable conversing in both Hebrew and 3 English? 4 Yes, definitely. Are you sometimes called upon on these flights to serve 5 Q 6 as an interpreter between Hebrew and English? 7 Α Of course. 8 I want to direct your attention, Mr. Silber, to 9 March 26th and 27th of this year. 10 Were you working on those days? 11 Α I was. What flight were you working? 12 Q 13 I was working the segment from Tel Aviv back to JFK. Α 14 Q What type of aircraft was involved in that flight? 15 It was a Boeing 747-400. Α 16 Were you assigned to work in a particular section of the 17 aircraft? 18 Α Yes. 19 That particular flight my duty was to serve in the 20 business elite cabin. 21 I will direct your attention to the diagram that's on the 22 screen in front of you. 23 Do you recognize that as an accurate diagram of that 24 747 - 400? 25 Yes, it is.

# Silber - direct - Sarratt

99

1 Q If you could just indicate then on the screen the portion 2 of the cabin that you were assigned to work.

- 3 A It's the forward portion of the aircraft, where --
- 4 Q If you actually touch the screen with your finger, it
- 5 | will show up.

8

9

10

- 6 A Okay. The business elite section goes all the way from 7 up front to here.
  - MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may the record reflect I guess that the witness has indicated the forward part of the lower level of the aircraft, approximately rows one to twelve.
- 11 THE COURT: So noted.
- Q Mr. Silber, did there came a point during this flight
  when you became aware that there had been an incident between
- 14 two of the passengers?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q How did you first learn that?
- A When flight attendant Christine approached me and told me she had a situation that happened in the economy cabin.
- 19 Q Did you then confer with the other flight attendants
  20 about how to handle that situation?
- 21 A Yes.

22

23

24

25

I initially told her to check with Rene, which was the economy cabin coordinator responsible for the economy cabin, and after that all three of us, we consulted together and we came to a decision about our actions.

Silber - direct - Sarratt 100 What was that decision? 1 Q 2 We decided to -- first of all, the ladies, Rene and 3 Christine, they were working the economy cabin and they gave 4 me more details about what the lady was complaining about and after that we decided that of course the appropriate step 5 6 would be to let the lady decide whether she wants police to 7 meet the flight or not. 8 What was your understanding at that time about the nature 9 of the complaint? 10 I knew -- I was told that the young lady complained about feeling something throughout the flight while she was asleep 11 12 until eventually she woke up and found the subject hand 13 between her legs. 14 Did there came a point, Mr. Silber, then when you 15 approached the man who was the subject of the passenger's 16 complaint? 17 Α Yes. 18 Why were you called back from the business elite then to 19 speak with him? 20 After the decision was made to have the police meet the 21 flight and the pilots had indeed confirmed that, we, as an act 22 of decency, of course, we wanted to inform the subject that 23 that is indeed what's going to happen and Rene and Christine 24 approached him, wanted to inform him about that. Apparently, 25 he did not speak a word of English and therefore they needed

### Silber - direct - Sarratt 101 my assistance as an LOD flight attendant. 1 2 So did you then make your way to the back of the plane? 3 Α I did. 4 Did you in fact encounter someone there in the back of the plane? 5 Yes. 6 Α 7 I went to the very back of the plane with Rene, where the subject was standing there, and I had informed him 8 9 that is -- what is going to happen, that the police are about 10 to meet the flight upon arrival. 11 So you did speak with this person? 12 Α I did. 13 Do you see this person you spoke with in the courtroom Q 14 today? 15 Α I do. 16 If you could just describe him by an article of clothing 17 or by a physical description? 18 Α It's the man sitting over there with the beard in front 19 of the monitor. 20 Q Short beard or long beard? 21 Α Long beard. 22 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may the record reflect that the witness has identified the defendant? 23 24 THE COURT: Yes. As you approached the defendant then, were you able to 25 Q

```
Silber - direct - Sarratt
                                                                 102
    observe his demeanor?
1
 2
         Yes.
 3
    Q
         How did he seem to you?
 4
         He seemed very confused. He was standing in the very,
    very back of the plane with his head down as if it seemed --
5
              MR. BIENENFELD: Objection.
 6
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, this is an observation
7
8
    that this witness made with his own eyes.
9
              MR. BIENENFELD: As if it seemed? That's not an
10
                  I don't know what's going to come out of his
    observation.
11
    mouth next.
12
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, if you could hear the
13
    testimony and give it whatever weight it is worth.
14
              THE COURT: I will overrule the objection.
              You can continue.
15
16
         It seemed to me that he is in deep thought and he seemed
17
    confused.
18
    Q
         Were you able to speak with the defendant in Hebrew?
19
    Α
         Yes.
20
    Q
         Did you speak with him in Hebrew the whole time?
21
    Α
         Yes.
22
         I believe you mentioned this a moment ago but what was
23
    your purpose in speaking with him?
24
    Α
         The purpose was to inform him that the lady -- that we
25
    know that there is a lady that complained about several
```

#### Silber - direct - Sarratt 103 actions and the lady had decided to ask police to meet the 1 2 flight and it is our duty to do so, and I am only there to 3 inform him that's indeed what's going to happen, and as soon 4 as we have more details, we shall inform him as well. Q 5 Did you in fact say those things to the defendant? Α I did. 6 What if anything did he say in response? 7 Q 8 Α The --9 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection. 10 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, these were statements of the defendant. 11 12 THE COURT: Overruled. 13 He looked at me, responding very short answers, I don't 14 know. It can't be. I was asleep. If it -- if it was, it was 15 an accident. It can't be. I'm 48 years old. I have eleven 16 kids. I don't think I did it. I was asleep. It must be a 17 mistake. 18 Q Do you remember anything else he said? 19 Α Not at that point. 20 Did the defendant express any outrage at having been 21 accused of this? 22 Α No. 23 Q About how long did the discussion with the defendant last 24 there in the rear of the aircraft? 25 Not more than two minutes.

## Silber - direct - Sarratt 104 1 What did you do after that? Q 2 Right after he made his response to me, I told him that I 3 am sorry, I am not a police officer. I am not a doctor, 4 and -- well, I said it in Hebrew but in English, literal translation would be that it doesn't really interest me. 5 I'm 6 just here to inform him that the police is going to meet the 7 flight and it is our duty to make sure it happens, and as I said, as we have -- as soon as we have more information I'll 8 9 let him know. 10 At that point did you remain in the rear of the aircraft 11 or did you move forward? 12 I remained in the economy cabin but I moved forward 13 towards the economy cabin galley. 14 Q Was that galley three? I -- I don't know the -- the exact numbers, but it was 15 16 this galley here. 17 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, may the record reflect 18 that the witness has made a mark on the exhibit indicating the 19 galley near row 51? 20 THE COURT: So noted. 21 When you were there at the galley we just discussed, did 22 there came a point when the defendant approached you? 23 Α Yes. 24 What did he say? Q 25 Α He came to me and asked to speak to the young lady,

Silber - direct - Sarratt

105

1 | repeating that it must be a mistake and he wishes to apologize

- 2 | if he did anything inappropriate, he wishes to apologize and
- 3 he didn't do anything on purpose and, God forbid, he didn't
- 4 | want to hurt anybody and he truly wishes to talk to her and
- 5 apologize and clear things out. He repeated then that he
- 6 has -- he's 48 years old, he has eleven kids. He doesn't have
- 7 | time for such things. And once again, he wants to talk to the
- 8 young lady and apologize and make her understand that he meant
- 9 no harm.
- 10 Q Did you believe it was a good idea for him to talk to
- 11 her?
- 12 A I did not.
- 13 Q So what did you say to him?
- 14 A I responded that I don't think it is a good idea and the
- 15 | lady is upset and that I truly think that he should go back to
- 16 his seat. I offered him a glass of water, and he indeed did
- 17 so.
- 18 Q He went back to his seat?
- 19 A Correct.
- 20 Q After that discussion with the defendant, what did you do
- 21 | next?
- 22 A I stayed in the economy cabin at that time. That's more
- 23 or less the time when most of the economy passengers wake up.
- 24 | It gets busy. I helped around, drinks, snacks, et cetera,
- 25 | until at some point probably more -- more or less an hour and

## Silber - direct - Sarratt 106 1 a half, two hours prior to landing, I returned to the business 2 elite cabin. 3 Now, when the flight -- excuse me. 4 Did you have any further actions with the defendant during the flight? 5 6 During the flight, no. 7 When the flight landed at JFK, did law enforcement in 8 fact meet the flight? 9 Α Yes, they did. 10 Did you come in contact with the defendant again at that Q point? 11 12 Α Yes. 13 Q What happened? Upon opening the aircraft's door, two police officers 14 15 came on board. One of them escorted the young lady downstairs 16 and I escorted the second one to the subject and he followed 17 us to the business elite galley. 18 Q Just to be clear, when you say the subject, who are you 19 referring to? 20 Α To the defendant, the gentleman with the long beard. 21 Once he was escorted there, what happened? 22 A police officer, the defendant and myself, we were in 23 the most forward business elite galley for initial 24 questioning. The police officer was using me as a translator 25 since the defendant doesn't speak a word of English.

## Silber-cross-Bienenfeld 107 me questions. I translated to the defendant. The defendant 1 2 answered and I translated back to the police officer. 3 Q Did you try to do that as faithfully as you could? 4 Α Of course. What did the defendant say? 5 6 MR. BIENENFELD: Objection, Your Honor. 7 THE COURT: Overruled. 8 He repeated the same things he told me. I don't remember 9 that much from that conversation. But basically it was that 10 he was asleep. And if he did it, it was an accident and it 11 can't be. Those were the things that I definitely remember 12 from that conversation. 13 Q Did the defendant express any outrage to the police that 14 he was being accused of this? 15 Α No. 16 MR. SARRATT: Mr. Silber, thank you for your 17 testimony. 18 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. BIENENFELD: 19 20 MR. BIENENFELD: One moment, Your Honor? 21 THE COURT: Yes. 22 (Pause.) 23 MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you, Your Honor. 24 Q Good afternoon, Mr. Silber. 25 Good afternoon. Α

	Silber-cross-Bienenfeld 108
4	
1	Q My name is Saul Bienenfeld. I have the privilege and the
2	honor of representing Rabbi Bidany in this matter.
3	You knew that I wanted to talk to you about this
4	case, correct?
5	A Correct.
6	Q And you knew that I showed up at your apartment in Forest
7	Hills to talk to you about this case, correct?
8	A I know.
9	Q I left my card there?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Your roommates told you that, right?
12	A Yes.
13	Q But you never called me back?
14	A I never called you back. Up until yesterday.
15	Q Okay. Yesterday you called me back at the instruction of
16	the FBI?
17	A No.
18	Q Yesterday you called me back when you were right
19	before you were going to talk to the FBI?
20	A Yes.
21	Q Now, when you approached Rabbi Bidany in the back of the
22	plane the first time, he never said to you, I touched her in
23	my sleep, correct?
24	A Never said those words.
25	Q He never said to you, it happened but accident, correct?

#### Silber-cross-Bienenfeld 109 Those words he never said. 1 Α 2 He never said to you, I made a mistake, correct? Q 3 Α He didn't say those words. 4 Q He never said to you, I touched her in my sleep, correct? He never said those words. 5 Α 6 Now, the second time when he came to talk to you about Q 7 talking to the lady, did he ever say I touched her in my 8 sleep? 9 Α He did not. 10 Q Did he ever say, I touched her by accident? 11 Α He did not. Did he ever say, I made a mistake? 12 Q 13 Α He did not. 14 And then the third time while you were talking with the police officers, did he ever say, I touched her by mistake? 15 16 He did not. Did he ever say, I touched her by accident? 17 Q 18 Α He did not. Did he ever say, I made mistake? 19 Q 20 He did not. Α 21 What he did say to you is, if it was, it was an accident, 22 correct? 23 Α Correct. 24 Q But he never admitted to doing it? 25 Correct. Α

## Silber-cross-Bienenfeld 110 1 Q He had a very calm demeanor, correct? 2 Α Yes. 3 Q He wasn't excited, correct? 4 Α He was not. He wasn't afraid, correct? 5 Q 6 Α He was calm. 7 Q He was calm. 8 He wasn't nervous? 9 I don't know the definition of nervous, but as soon as we 10 were having a conversation with the police officer, he was 11 calm but yet he was -- I am assuming worried would be the 12 word. 13 Q Police officer came in a uniform, correct? 14 Α Correct. But before the police officer, he never seemed worried, 15 16 correct? I guess he did. When -- I think when I informed him that 17 18 police indeed is going to meet the flight, I would define it 19 as he seemed worried. 20 Q The woman who made the complaint, how long beforehand did 21 she make the complaint? 22 Α My guess is it was --23 THE COURT: Sustained. 24 Don't guess. 25 Do you know for certain?

## Silber-cross-Bienenfeld 111 THE WITNESS: For certain? 1 2 THE COURT: Do you know? She didn't make the 3 complaint to you, correct? 4 THE WITNESS: She didn't make the complaint to me. Q When you found out about it, how long before landing was 5 it? 6 7 It was between four and five hours prior to landing. Α 8 Where was she seated at that time? 9 After the complaint, where was she seated? 10 Α After the complaint she -- and after we informed the subject that the police is going to meet the flight, she sat 11 12 in one of our flight attendant jump seats right between the 13 business elite section and the economy cabin. 14 Q How long did she remain seated there? 15 Α Two hours. 16 Q Then was she moved? 17 Α Yes. 18 Q Where was she moved to? 19 Α To the upper deck business elite seats. 20 Those are much more comfortable seats than the coach 21 seats, right? 22 Correct. 23 Q How long did she spend in this business elite seat upstairs? 24 25 Not more than an hour-and-a-half.

#### Silber-cross-Bienenfeld 112 1 Q Then the plane landed? 2 Α Yes. 3 Q You mentioned that he wanted to speak to the lady, 4 correct? Α Yes. 5 6 Q Did he tell you that he wanted to straighten things out? 7 Α Yes. 8 Q Did he tell you he wanted to understand what happened? 9 Α I don't recall. 10 Q Did he tell you when he told you that he wanted to meet 11 the lady and talk to the lady that he didn't touch her? 12 Α He didn't say that. 13 Q Did he say that he didn't want to hurt anybody? 14 He didn't mean to hurt anybody, that's what he said to 15 me. 16 But you wouldn't let him talk to her, right? Q 17 Α Correct. 18 Q Is there a certain protocol on Delta if somebody -- if 19 one passenger accuses another of something --20 Α I'm sorry? 21 Is there a certain protocol on Delta, any rules or 22 regulations for Delta employees, if two passengers get into an 23 argument, if after the argument they are allowed to talk to 24 each other? 25 Not that I am aware of.

# Silber-redirect-Sarratt 113 Basically on your own you decided it wouldn't be a good 1 Q 2 idea for them to talk? 3 That's my exact definition. I said I don't think it's a 4 good idea for him to talk to her. But there are no rules and regulations about them talking 5 Q to each other? 6 Not that I am aware of. 7 Α 8 You prevented them from talking to each other, correct? If you want to put it this way. 9 Α 10 MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing further. REDIRECT EXAMINATION 11 BY MR. SARRATT: 12 13 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, just very briefly, if I 14 may. Mr. Silber, on cross-examination Mr. Bienenfeld asked you 15 16 a series of questions about what Mr. Bidany did not say. 17 Do you recall those questions? 18 Α Yes. 19 He asked you, he didn't say this, he didn't say this, he didn't say this. 20 21 Do you remember those? 22 Α Yes. 23 Q When you met with him the first time in the back of the 24 plane, what exactly did he say? 25 He did say I was asleep. It can't be. If I did it, it

## 114 Silber-recross-Bienenfeld 1 was by mistake. If I did it, I did it while I was asleep. 2 And that's it. 3 And then when he approached you the second time as you 4 were in the galley, what exactly did he say? He said that he would like to talk to the lady and to 5 Α 6 apologize for anything that he may have done. He didn't mean 7 If he hurt her, he'd like to apologize. If he did 8 something, it was just by accident while he was asleep. 9 Q Did he mention anything about his children or his family? 10 Α Yes. 11 Q What did he say about that? 12 He repeated the same thing, that he -- he said --13 during -- when he approached me the second time in the main 14 galley, he said that, once again, he's 48 years old. He has eleven kids and he doesn't have time for such things. 15 16 MR. SARRATT: Nothing further, Mr. Silber. 17 Thank you for your testimony. 18 **RECROSS-EXAMINATION** 19 BY MR. BIENENFELD: 20 Q He kept using the word "it," correct? 21 Α Correct. 22 Q He never told you I did it, correct? 23 Α He never told me I did it. 24 MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing further. 25 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Silber. You are excused.

```
115
1
               (Witness excused.)
 2
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, at this time the
 3
    government rests.
 4
              THE COURT: You said you had a couple of witnesses?
              MR. BIENENFELD: I have three witnesses.
 5
 6
              I, of course, have a motion after the government's
7
    case.
8
              THE COURT: Sure.
9
              Why don't we -- you want to do the motion now?
              MR. BIENENFELD: Yes.
10
11
              THE COURT: I need to have lunch.
12
              MR. BIENENFELD: So do I.
13
              THE COURT: I'm sure everyone else does too.
14
              Why don't you make your motion?
15
              MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, after the government's
    case, I move to dismiss for failure to prove certain elements
16
17
    of the crime.
              If you take a look at the misdemeanor information,
18
19
    they charged my client with engaging in sexual contact with
20
    Jane Doe One without her permission.
21
              Sexual contact is a defined term in the U.S. Code.
22
    It is 18 U.S. Code 2246.
23
              THE COURT: Just one second.
24
              Okay.
25
              MR. BIENENFELD: In order to prove sexual contact,
```

you'd have to prove an intentional touching, either directly or through the clothing, of the genitalia, anus, groin, breast, inner thigh or buttocks of any person, with an intent to abuse, humiliate, harass, degrade or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.

My argument to you, Judge, is they didn't prove any intent to abuse, any intent to humiliate, any intent to harass, any intent to degrade. There is absolutely no evidence of anyone getting aroused by their sexual desire.

I believe they didn't meet their burden and I move to dismiss.

MR. SARRATT: I'd be happy to respond, if Your Honor would like to hear.

THE COURT: I think you should.

MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, the indictment -- excuse me. The misdemeanor information in this case charges a violation of 18 USC 113(a)(5). I submitted a letter on Monday, I believe of this week, setting forth the Second Circuit case law laying out the elements of that offense.

They do not include a requirement to prove sexual contact as that term is defined in 18 USC 2246 and, indeed, the definition that Mr. Bienenfeld just referenced in Section 2246 is expressly limited to as that term is used in this chapter.

So I will quote from 18 USC Section 2246.

Definitions for chapter is the heading. Then it expressly says, as used in this chapter.

Your Honor, there is a definition for the term sexual contact. It includes touching either through the clothing or directly, of the groin and the breast, and it includes an intent to humiliate, harass, degrade or arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person.

Your Honor, the government's argument here is twofold.

First, we have met abundantly the requirements -the contours of that definition. We have put on competent
testimony of direct touching, to the breast and groin, and we
have proved it under circumstances in which the defendant was
moving his hands around. That directly and powerfully
suggests that he was doing this to abuse the victim, he was
doing this to gratify himself on an aircraft and he was doing
it at a point where he had a captive audience, where she had
nowhere she could go. She was trapped in a seat next to him.

Your Honor, there couldn't be anything more clear than the fact that when a man reaches his hand over and touches a woman and grabs her and massages her private parts, that he is doing that for an improper purpose, unless that woman consents. I think there is absolutely no suggestion in this case that there was any consent at all.

So my first point, Your Honor, is that the

government has amply met any requirement that is found within the definition of sexual contact.

But, Your Honor, as a second argument, that definition does not apply here. It is expressly limited to the chapter in which that section is found. Your Honor will understand that there is a felony charge that is quite similar to the charge against the defendant in this case, but the information in this case does not charge a felony.

I can say that those were largely for reasons of the government's need to make sure that this case could be brought to a speedy trial so that the witness could attend. I don't want to suggest in any way that that reflected an assessment by the government that the defendant was not in fact guilty of the more serious crime as set forth in the chapter in which that definition is found.

But, Your Honor, the fact is, we have charged a violation of Section 113(a)(5). The Second Circuit case law we have cited in our letter of Monday lays out clearly what the elements of that offense are. They do not include that we meet the definition of sexual contact there. As the case law we have cited in our letter makes clear, what satisfies the requirement of simple assault under 113(a)(5) is an offensive touching. There is no doubt, Your Honor, that that requirement has been met here.

I submit the motion should be denied.

MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, they wrote the complaint. They put the words in. They used the words by engaging in sexual contact. They never changed the complaint to say by engaging in offensive touching. They didn't change it.

I have to only assume that by sexual contact they are looking to be held to the standard of the definition of sexual contact. There is no evidence of abuse. You have to have -- there is no evidence of intent to abuse.

THE COURT: Ms. Lechtman testified that Rabbi Bidany did this while he was awake, touched her in her groin and on her breast, moved his hand. If that testimony is believed, that's sufficient to infer a general intent or specific intent for him to arouse himself, gratify himself, or to humiliate or abuse her, which fits within the definition of 2246 sexual contact.

MR. BIENENFELD: I submit to Your Honor, that there is only circumstantial evidence in this case. If it's only circumstantial evidence, you have to find in favor towards the defendant.

THE COURT: Circumstantial evidence can be enough for a conviction. Correct?

MR. BIENENFELD: I agree. But you have to look at the most light favorable to the defendant if it's only circumstantial evidence.

```
120
1
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, that's for, one thing,
 2
    simply not the law. Not here, anywhere in this country.
               Second, there is no circumstantial evidence in this
 3
 4
    case.
           There is direct evidence from a competent witness of
    what happened to her. She has personal knowledge of those
5
 6
    things. There is direct evidence and, Your Honor, we submit,
7
    it is compelling.
8
              Motion should be denied.
9
              THE COURT: Last chance.
              MR. BIENENFELD: I believe the motion should be
10
11
    granted.
                           Okay. I am denying the motion.
12
              THE COURT:
13
              There is enough evidence to hear the defendant's
14
    case and then move on from there.
15
              We will come back at 2:00 o'clock.
16
              MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor.
17
               (Luncheon recess taken.)
18
               (Continued on next page.)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
```

	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 121
1	AFTERNOON SESSION
2	THE COURT: Okay. Let's continue.
3	MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you, Your Honor.
4	Your Honor, it is my pleasure to call Gavriel Bidany
5	to the stand.
6	THE COURT: Okay.
7	MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, the witness for
8	religious reasons affirms and doesn't swear. I don't know if
9	Your Honor is aware of the difference.
10	THE COURT: That's why I say, do you swear or
11	affirm
12	MR. BIENENFELD: Sorry.
13	THE COURT: when I swear in witnesses.
14	Please raise your right hand.
15	(The witness is duly sworn/affirmed by the Court.)
16	THE COURT: Okay. Please be seated.
17	State and spell your name for the record.
18	THE WITNESS: I don't know how to spell it in
19	English.
20	THE COURT: Okay. That's all right.
21	Continue, counsel.
22	THE WITNESS: Gavriel Bidany.
23	(Continued on next page.)
24	
25	

	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 122	
	Drawny arrest Bronomera 122	
1	DIRECT EXAMINATION	
2	BY MR. BIENENFELD:	
3	Q Rabbi Bienenfeld, where do you live?	
4	A In Israel, at the agricultural community of Achiezer,	
5	Q How long have you lived there?	
6	A I arrived there five years ago from another town, the	
7	name of which is Netivot.	
8	Q Prior to living in Netivot, where did you live?	
9	A Before then I had lived in the Achiezer community.	
10	Q The same place the same community that you are living	
11	today?	
12	A In the same place where I live now, I had lived	
13	previously as well.	
14	Q How old are you?	
15	A Forty-seven years old.	
16	Q Are you married?	
17	A Married, with eleven children.	
18	Q How long have you been married?	
19	A Twenty-four years.	
20	Q What are the names	
21	A Approximately.	
22	Q What are the names and the ages of your children?	
23	A The eldest daughter is 22 years old, twins who are	
24	21 years old, then an 18-year old girl you want names as	
25	well?	

```
123
                        Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld
1
    Q
         If you can.
 2
    Α
         Eden is the eldest E D E N, 22 years old.
 3
               The 21-year old twins are Avisar, A V I S A R, and
 4
    Ariel, ARIEL.
5
               Avishag, A V I S H A G is -- she is 18 years old.
               Merav, M E R A V, she is 16 years old.
 6
7
               Moshe, M O S H E, is 15 years old.
8
               Simcha, S I M C H A is -- she is 15 years old.
9
               I'm sorry. Interpreter's error. She is ten years
    old.
10
11
               Ruth is eight years old.
12
              Yehuda, Y E H U D A, is six years old.
13
               Efrat, E F R A T is -- she is five years old.
14
    Q
         Thank you.
15
         Ortal, O R T A L, she is four years old.
    Α
16
    Q
         I forgot about the twins.
17
              Where did you go to school?
18
    Α
         Since childhood?
19
         Since high school.
20
         I -- since high school, I studied in a yeshiva for three
21
    years and then I studied in a vocational school, a military
22
    one, Nahal, N A H A L, Nachalim, N A C H A L I M. This is
23
    premilitary service, actually.
24
    Q
         Were you a member of the Israeli military?
25
    Α
         Yes.
```

		Didony diment Dianonfold 124
		Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 124
1	Q	At what age did you were you drafted into the
2	mili	tary?
3	Α	You are referring to the premilitary now?
4	Q	After after premilitary school, what did you do?
5	Α	I enlisted in the military afterward, at the age of 17
6	and	a half.
7	Q	How long were you in the Army for?
8	Α	Three years.
9	Q	What's the highest rank that you achieved?
10	Α	Staff sergeant.
11	Q	What branch of the military were you in?
12	Α	Antiaircraft Vulcan, V U L C A N, branch. I was a master
13	serg	eant in charge of a brigade.
14	Q	How many soldiers are in a brigade?
15	Α	One hundred thirty soldiers.
16	Q	So you were in charge of one hundred thirty soldiers?
17	Α	I was in charge, I was the commander of one hundred
18	thir	ty soldiers. And I received this position as a
19	cons	equence of my of having received a Medal of Honor from
20	the	President of the State of Israel.
21	Q	Why did he give you a medal of honor?
22	Α	During a war, I saved the lives of a large group of
23	sold	iers.
24	Q	Which war was this?
25	Α	The Peace of the Galilee campaign.

	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 125
1	Q What division of the Army?
2	In other words, in the United States we have Air
3	Force, Navy and Marines.
4	What division of the Army were you in?
5	A Air Force.
6	Q How long were you in the Army for?
7	A Three years.
8	Q When you left the Army, how were you discharged?
9	A I received the normal release or honorable degree
10	honorable discharge.
11	Q After you left the Army, what did you do then?
12	A I worked several jobs. One of them was called Cargal,
13	C A R G A L, which is a plant that produces cartons. I worked
14	for the Jewish Agency, and thereafter I was self-employed.
15	Q Currently, what do you do?
16	A At present I work dealing with and contending with
17	emotional problems that the youth have, consultation
18	providing consultation when it comes to education and
19	counseling and counseling as well as counseling marital
20	counseling. And counseling, providing counseling, when it
21	comes to matters marital issues.
22	I also provide consultation to people in various
23	business matters.
24	Q Do you do any volunteer work in Israel?
25	A Everything I do is on a voluntary basis and we have a

## 126 Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 1 we have a plant. We have a -- we have a plant that is 2 involved in free distribution of produce and products to 3 people in need. 4 So you feed hungry people? It's called a soup kitchen. 5 Α Yes. 6 Q Where is the soup kitchen located? 7 Α It's between Ramle and Lod, R A M L E and L O D. 8 How often do you go to the soup kitchen? 9 Α Twice a week. 10 Q What do you do when you are there? I see to it that in catering halls where food remains at 11 12 the end of the evening festivities, that that food I see to it 13 that it is brought to those who are in need of food. 14 In addition to that, we have people who support the 15 soup kitchen by providing produce, products, dry products, 16 which are distributed. 17 Q How often do you come to the United States? 18 Α I come four, five times a year, as needed. 19 Why do you come to the United States? 20 I'm invited here in order to provide counseling to people 21 on the subject of education and pedagogy as well as in issues 22 of marital issues. We have dealt a great deal with people 23 with emotional problems. 24 Our work, bless the Lord, has proved to be effective 25 and can be seen, palpable. And we have great success because

	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 127	
1	I deal with these subjects personally.	
2	Q Are any of the people that you help in New York in the	
3	courtroom today?	
4	A Whoever is there.	
5	Q Are you referring to, when I am facing the back, the	
6	right side of the courtroom?	
7	A Only from the right, on the right side.	
8	Q All the people on the right side you have helped?	
9	A Yes, as well as those others who were here earlier.	
10	There is Rabbi Morganstern here, who is the rabbi of the	
11	community, of a congregation rather, in New Rochelle.	
12	Q Do you have any personal rules when interacting with	
13	women?	
14	A First of all, when I'm in New York my English is not	
15	hundred percent. It's not clear. And, naturally, when I have	
16	to deal with things on a personal level, I need an	
17	interpreter. So that in almost all instances, I receive an	
18	interpreter, so that we are in fact at least three people in	
19	the room in such cases. And the door is always to be left	
20	open, ajar. And the people who can testify to that here	
21	people here who can testify to that.	
22	Q When in you're in Israel where you don't need an	
23	interpreter and you are in one-on-one with another woman, what	
24	rules do you have?	
25	A The door is always ajar and there are people with me.	

## 128 Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld Being alone with a woman, with a door closed, doesn't happen. 1 2 In terms of women touching you, are women allowed to 3 touch you? 4 Α Of course not. 5 Q From what age --6 Α Except for my children. 7 From what age are women not supposed to touch you? () 8 Up to -- with my own children, a daughter up to the age 9 of eight I can touch her in order to provide love and warmth. 10 Beyond -- above that age, it's -- the most it is providing --11 giving a blessing, blessing them with a hand on the head or 12 touching the hand, the back of the hand. 13 I bless them over -- over their head and I provide 14 rather than hand, I provide my hand when they would be kissing 15 the hand. 16 That is the extent of it after age eight. 17 Q Do you touch other women other than your wife? 18 Α No. 19 Directing --20 All the children -- when I deal with women, if even -- I 21 don't even touch their two or three-year old daughters at all. 22 There is no physical contact. 23 And also, at the home in which I am a guest, I never 24 have physical contact or touch the females. 25 Q Drawing your attention to March 27th, to that flight an

i	
	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 129
1	Delta, when you came to the airport, did you have a request
2	for the ticket agent at the airport?
3	A Yes.
4	I asked him, as in each and every flight of mine, I
5	asked that I would like to be seated next to a man.
6	Q Why did you ask that?
7	A Because I don't want to sit next to a woman or have
8	physical contact with her because the seats are very tight,
9	very close to each other.
10	Q You made this request in Tel Aviv from the Delta agent?
11	A Yes.
12	Q What did she say to you?
13	A The flight is totally full. If there is such a request
14	it cannot be honored. Everything is filled up.
15	Q So what did you decide to do?
16	A I had no choice. I sat, as I did in El Al, on several
17	instances, where there was no room, it was filled up, I sat
18	where I had no choice but to sit. And I covered myself
19	completely and I also make sure that I don't sleep the night
20	before so that I would be sleeping during the flight.
21	Q When you came on to the airplane, when you went down to
22	your row, was anyone sitting in your row?
23	A As I got on the plane?
24	Q When you got on the plane.
25	A There were two women seated and I sat at the aisle seat

ı			
		Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld	130
1	next t	o them.	
2	Q T	hey were seated there before you sat down, correct?	
3	A Y	es.	
4	Q W	hat this flight was on Saturday night?	
5	A Y	es.	
6	Q D	oid you sleep at all that Saturday?	
7	A N	lo .	
8	Q A	ny particular reason why you didn't sleep?	
9	A I	n order to be asleep on the plane.	
10	Q T	hat week before hand, before this flight, how much sl	еер
11	did you get did you get your normal amount of sleep that		
12	week?		
13	A I	generally don't sleep a lot. I sleep three, four ho	urs
14	max a	night. There are people here who can testify to my	
15	gettin	g called at three, four in the morning and I answer t	he
16	calls.		
17	Q W	Then you came on to the plane and you saw the two wome	n
18	there,	did you say anything to them before you sat down?	
19	A N	lo.	
20	Q W	hen you sat down, what did you do?	
21	A I	sat down. I put on I closed the seat belt and I	
22	waited	for the flight to take off.	
23	Q D	oid there come a time when they served a meal on the	
24	plane?		
25	A F	or the plane to take off.	

## 131 Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 1 Q Sorry. 2 Did there come a time that they served a meal on the 3 plane? 4 At the moment they started serving the food and at my -when it came to me, it arrived a bit late. I asked what is --5 what about my -- the request I had made for kosher food. 6 told me, she will check that. 7 8 The woman sitting next to me asked me, she told me, 9 I have kosher food as well. Do you want a portion of mine --10 of my meal? I told her no, thank you. I'll wait what I had 11 ordered. 12 The person who sat next to you who said that, is that the Q 13 same person who testified this morning? 14 Yes. Α Did your meal finally come? 15 Q 16 Α Yes. Did you eat it? 17 Q 18 Α Sure, yes. 19 After eating the meal, what did you do on the flight? I went to sleep. I opened -- I unwrapped -- unraveled 20 21 the -- unfolded the blanket and covered my entire body, 22 including the head. 23 Q Why did you cover your entire body, including the head, with a blanket? 24 25 First of all, it's more -- it makes it easier for me to

## Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 132 be in a position where I'm unable to have contact with anyone 1 2 else and I also like to sleep that way. 3 Before putting the blanket over your head, what were the 4 lights like on the plane? 5 Α There was still light. 6 Q The blanket assisted in blocking out that light? 7 Α Yes. 8 MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, if I could approach the 9 witness, I would like to hand him the blanket which is marked 10 as Exhibit B in evidence. 11 Thank you. 12 Do you recognize what's been marked as Exhibit B in Q 13 evidence? 14 Α Yes. What do you recognize that to be? 15 Q 16 The blanket I covered myself with. It's a similar blanket, correct? 17 Q 18 Α It seems to me a bit -- I don't remember exactly. I did 19 not really focus on that, but it looks to me very similar. 20 Q Can you please show the Court how you covered yourself 21 with the blanket when you were on the plane? 22 MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, if I may? 23 Indicating the blanket covering his head and going 24 down past his knees, if Your Honor wants to see. If the US 25 Attorney wants to see.

## Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 133 THE COURT: Just below the knee. 1 2 Okay. You could uncover yourself. 3 Where were your hands when you covered yourself with 4 the blanket? Α I hold my hands and arms in this position, thus. 5 6 MR. BIENENFELD: Indicating hands --7 THE COURT: On the belt. 8 MR. BIENENFELD: On the belt line. 9 Thank you, Judge. 10 Q When you slept on the plane, did you sleep lying straight 11 up, did you lean to the side? 12 How did you start to fall asleep? 13 Mostly I slept with my head leaning backwards. Α 14 How do you consider your sleep on this flight? 15 Do you consider yourself a heavy sleeper, a light sleeper? 16 Deep sleep. 17 Α 18 Q You hadn't slept the whole day, correct? 19 Α Correct. 20 Q Did there come a time that you were awoken? 21 At one point I woke up and needed going to the bathroom 22 and, naturally, we walk around a little bit in order to loosen 23 up the muscles. 24 When you woke up to go to the bathroom, was the passenger 25 sitting next to you in her seat?

	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld	134
1	A Yes, she was.	
2	Q What was she doing?	
3	A She sat.	
4	Q Was she awake?	
5	A I think she read a book.	
6	Q After going to the bathroom and walking a	round a little
7	bit, did you go back to your seat?	
8	A Yes.	
9	Q What did you do then?	
10	A I saw her reading a book. I think the bo	ok may the
11	title of the book may have been The War Against the Angel of	
12	Death or The War Against the Devil or some suc	h thing. And I
13	covered myself again and I went to sleep becau	se there was
14	nothing else to do.	
15	Q When you covered yourself, did you cover	yourself in the
16	same way that you showed the judge before?	
17	A The same way.	
18	Q When you went to sleep this time, how was	your body
19	positioned?	
20	A At some point I was once to the left, onc	e to the right.
21	To the left not my entire body, only half. On	e cannot remain
22	in one fixed position. It is difficult to sta	y in one
23	position the entire time.	
24	Q For the entire time was your head fully c	overed?
25	A Yes, always. That's what I like to do, t	o cover myself.

	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 135
1	Q At this time what were the lighting conditions like on
2	the plane?
3	A I was asleep.
4	Q Before you went to sleep, were the lights on or off?
5	A I don't recall.
6	Q But you had the blanket over your head, correct?
7	A The whole time.
8	Q Are you able to see through that blanket when it's over
9	your head?
10	A I didn't try to.
11	Q Did anything wake you up after the second time that you
12	went to sleep?
13	A I heard the voice, the yelling, are you trying to tell me
14	that this is a mistake? And she repeated, this is a mistake?
15	I asked her, what mistake are you talking about?
16	What was the mistake? What happened that you saying is a
17	mistake?
18	You touched me, she said. Why are you touching me.
19	And she immediately told me, I want to go to see
20	I want to see the the flight attendant. I was in shock.
21	What does she want from me?
22	And then she told me let me go. So I got up from my
23	seat. So she went to the flight attendant, female flight
24	attendant in the kitchen. I was in shock over this.
25	So I went towards the back to the bathroom and I

## 136 Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld waited until a place would -- the place at the bathroom would 1 2 be vacant, not occupied, that there would be no one in the 3 bathroom and then I returned to the -- to the flight attendants, in that kitchen over there and I asked what 4 5 happened, where is the girl, what happened, what happened? 6 They said no, you cannot speak with her. 7 why? What has happened? One cannot talk? What is this? 8 are you preventing me from speaking with her, to see what had 9 happened. 10 No, she's in hysterics. She cannot talk. 11 Q Okay. Let's take it one step at a time. 12 When you heard someone talking to you, that woke you 13 up, where was the blanket? 14 Α Over my head. 15 Q What were your eyes like? 16 Α I was asleep and I woke up. 17 Q When you were sleeping, your eyes were closed? 18 Α Of course. 19 So when you heard the noise, what did you do in terms of 20 the blanket? 21 I removed it in order -- I raised it in order to see what 22 had happened. 23 Q What position were you in in the seat when you raised the 24 blanket? In the same manner I'm sitting in right now. 25

	Didony diment Dianonfold 197	
	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 137	
1	Q Indicating straight up?	
2	A Yes.	
3	Q You went to your right or to your left?	
4	A Correct. In the same situation as now.	
5	Q When you took the blanket off your head, what did you	
6	see?	
7	A I saw her leaning herself towards the the divider, the	
8	hand rest and she says to me, is this a mistake? Are you	
9	trying to tell me that this is a mistake?	
10	And I asked I told her, what mistake are you	
11	talking about? What are you talking about?	
12	Q Now, was her tray table up or down, do you remember?	
13	A Hers or mine?	
14	Q Hers.	
15	A It was open. It was lowered. It was open.	
16	Q And your table, was it open or closed?	
17	A Closed.	
18	Q Did she climb over you to get out of the row?	
19	A No. She asked me to get up, saying she wants to pass.	
20	And I did.	
21	Q Did you see where she went when you got up?	
22	A Yes, certainly.	
23	She went in the direction of the kitchen. The	
24	kitchen is close to us, a mere two meters.	
25	Q When you use the word kitchen, is it the same thing as	

# 138 Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 1 when people gave testimony, the same area when people 2 testified about galley three? 3 The one closest to the first row, to -- to the first row there. 4 5 Q When you saw her go to the galley, did you notice if the 6 curtain for the galley was open or closed? 7 Certainly. It was open. Certainly. Because there is always traffic there back and forth. 8 9 And I could say this also. Based on the many 10 flights I take, there is always traffic there and the blind 11 was open. The curtain, rather. 12 Did there come a time that Aviel Silber, the flight 13 attendant who testified, came and spoke to you on the plane? 14 Α The translator, the interpreter? 15 Q The Hebrew speaking Delta employee. 16 He didn't -- I came to them. After having gone to the 17 bathroom, I came to the galley or kitchen and I spoke to him, 18 saying what happened, what occurred. 19 And he said one cannot speak with her. 20 Q When you spoke to him in the galley, what was your 21 demeanor like? 22 I came to him with astonishment and wonder what happened. 23 I would like to approach the lady and speak with her. 24 Q Why did you want to approach the lady and speak with her? It's in -- it's natural, when you get a yell, you get 25

	Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 139
1	yelled at, it's a woman you one cannot be simply sit there,
2	not acknowledge it and, you know, and sit there without any
3	action, without asking what has happened. Can one just remain
4	there sitting without inquiring?
5	Q Did you ever use the word mistake when you spoke with.
6	Mr. Silber?
7	A When I turned to him and I told him and she and told
8	him that she said mistake, what what mistake, what is a
9	mistake, and when he turned to me and said to me that and
10	said that she claims that you touched her. I said to him, she
11	said I told him, she had said mistake. Do you mean to tell
12	me that this is a mistake?
13	I told him, I did not touch her. But and he
14	said, but she claims you did. So I said, so what. May I
15	speak to her, to understand what exactly happened?
16	Q Did you ever say to Mr. Silber, if it was, it was an
17	accident?
18	A I explained to him, I forgot his name
19	Q Are you talking about the Delta flight attendant?
20	A Yes, the interpreter flight attendant.
21	Can you repeat the question?
22	MR. BIENENFELD: Can I have the question read back,
23	please?
24	THE COURT: Please.
25	(Record read.)

# 140 Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld Actually, let me change it. I understand the issue of 1 Q 2 the translation. 3 Did you ever say to Silber, if it was, it was a 4 mistake? No. 5 Α () So when you -- did you ever say the word mistake to him? 6 7 I told him that she had claimed -- she claimed that it's 8 a mistake. So I did not understand why she is saying it is a 9 mistake. And I don't understand. If somebody jumps because 10 he's being touched, he doesn't say what is this, a mistake. She would yell, what are you touching me. And her initial 11 12 reaction was, is this a mistake? One who would be sitting 13 next to us -- next to us what would he think? 14 The moment someone is being touched and results in 15 his jumping, he doesn't come up, doesn't jump up and say it's 16 a mistake. A question, is this a mistake. One does not -the interpreter would like to repeat -- to rephrase or correct 17 18 the response -- the translation, the interpretation. 19 When a person is --20 Is there a question even pending? THE COURT: 21 MR. BIENENFELD: The question as to whether he used 22 the word mistake. 23 THE COURT: We are going beyond that. 24 MR. BIENENFELD: I agree. 25 THE COURT: So let's get back to the topic.

#### Bidany-direct-Bienenfeld 141 MR. BIENENFELD: 1 Okay. 2 How many times did you speak to the flight attendant Q 3 interpreter? 4 Α Twice. Where were you when you spoke to him? 5 Q 6 Α On the plane -- in the plane. 7 Q The first time was when you went to the galley to find him? 8 He was in the kitchen. 9 Α 10 Q At that time did he explain to you that the police were 11 going to come and meet the flight? 12 Α Yes. 13 Q When was the second time you spoke to him? 14 Α Downstairs. 15 When you were off the plane? Q 16 When we had left the -- got out of the plane. Α 17 At that time was there a uniformed police officer Q 18 present? Yes. 19 Α 20 Did he ever speak to you in the back by the bathrooms? Q 21 Α Who? 22 Q The Hebrew interpreter. 23 Did he ever speak to you on the plane in the back by 24 the bathrooms? No. 25 Α

#### 142 Bidany-cross-Sarratt The interpreter testified -- withdrawn. 1 Q 2 The Delta employee who spoke Hebrew testified that 3 you remained calm. 4 Were you calm? Α Of course, the entire time. 5 6 Q Why were you calm all the time? 7 Why should I feel pressured if I -- why should I feel 8 stressed if I did nothing? I was -- I had concern over what 9 had happened but I was very stable. 10 Q Did you ever touch the passenger sitting next to you? Α 11 No. 12 Did you ever touch the groin of the passenger sitting 13 next to you? 14 Α No, certainly not. Did you ever touch the breasts of the passenger sitting 15 16 next to you? 17 Heavens forbid, no. Α 18 MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you. 19 Nothing further. 20 CROSS-EXAMINATION 21 BY MR. SARRATT: 22 Q Good afternoon, sir. Good afternoon. 23 Α 24 Q Have we ever spoken before? 25 No. Α

		Bidany-cross-Sarratt 143
1	Q	In fact, we've never had any conversation with each other
2	at all, right?	
3	Α	Correct.
4	Q	You testified on direct about your work as a volunteer,
5	corre	ect?
6	Α	Yes.
7	Q	You said you do volunteer work as a counselor?
8	Α	Yes.
9	Q	You give counseling on marital problems?
10	Α	Yes.
11	Q	Do you give counseling on emotional problems?
12	Α	Yes.
13	Q	You testified that you work in a soup kitchen, is that
14	righ	t?
15	Α	Yes.
16	Q	Two days a week, is that right?
17	Α	Two days a week. It varies. It's not regular. It's
18	it's	a volunteer. It's volunteer work.
19	Q	In fact, you testified on direct that all of your work is
20	as a	volunteer, is that right?
21	Α	Yes.
22	Q	Do you recall when you were arrested in this case and you
23	were	applying for bond to be released, that you told Pretrial
24	Serv	ices here that you in fact make money in the United States
25	and <sup>-</sup>	that's why they should be satisfied that you would come

# 144 Bidany-cross-Sarratt 1 back to this country for trial? 2 I don't understand the question. 3 When you applied for bond in this case, to be released 4 pending trial, didn't you tell Pretrial Services that you make money in the United States? 5 6 I didn't say that I was working at it. 7 I am not sure you answered my question. 8 My question is, didn't you tell Pretrial Services 9 when you were applying for bond in this case that you make 10 money in the United States? 11 I am not a person who does it as a job, to make money. 12 My work is to rescue, to save people, to help people. And if 13 they want -- and if they want to give me money, if they want 14 to pay me, they do it. There is no prescribed amount that 15 they have to pay. 16 Had I been working at it as a profession, I'd be 17 well off today. The way I am, I don't have my own home. I 18 have eleven children and I don't own a house. I pay rent. 19 live in a rented apartment. 20 Mr. Bidany, with all respect, I don't believe you 21 answered my question. 22 Didn't you tell --23 MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, I --24 THE COURT: The point has been made. 25 THE INTERPRETER: I didn't hear Your Honor.

### Bidany-cross-Sarratt 145 1 THE COURT: The point has been made. 2 MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, the pretrial report 3 does not say that. 4 THE COURT: Go ahead then. Continue. 5 Q Mr. Bidany, so people do in fact pay you for the services 6 you provide in this country, isn't that right? 7 I don't dictate it to them. My question is, do they pay you for the services you 8 9 provide? 10 If they want to give me a gift, they give me a gift, as a gift. 11 12 So that's why you believe the work you do is as a 13 volunteer because you provide services, people pay you, and 14 you consider that a gift, is that right? 15 I promise you, that nobody would work today for the amount that I receive. 16 17 Mr. Bidany, how is it that you support yourself? 18 I have elderly parents. My mother is ill and she is in a 19 nursing home and my father is sick with cancer. And I keep --20 and I keep running and take care of him -- them constantly. 21 So they reward me for it. 22 Q You get money from your parents? 23 Α Yes. 24 Is that the only source of income that you have? Q 25 Α I also study at the Kolel, K O L E L.

## 146 Bidany-cross-Sarratt 1 THE INTERPRETER: By interpreter, it's a yeshiva for 2 married men. 3 And I receive money from the government. I also teach. 4 What kind of money from the government? 5 Every person who studies at the Kolel or is registered in 6 a Kolel receives a symbolic amount of money. 7 Other than your teaching and your money from the Kolel 8 and the money from your parents, do you have any other sources 9 of income? 10 Α No. 11 Mr. Bidany, you mentioned that you fly to the United States frequently, isn't that right? 12 13 Α Yes. 14 Four to five times a year, you said? 15 Α Yes. 16 Who pays for your flights? There is a woman by the name of Malkie, M A L K I E 17 18 Fuchs, F U C H S. 19 Q She pays for your flight every time? 20 She pays for the flight every time because she wants to 21 help people. This is the part -- her part in helping people. 22 She knows that I help people. 23 I didn't understand what the interpreter said, but I 24 suppose it's right. 25 Did she pay for your flight from Tel Aviv to New York on

	Bidany-cross-Sarratt 147
1	March 26th or 27th?
2	A Yes.
3	Q What was the purpose of your travel to the United States
4	in March of 2011?
5	A To help people.
6	Q Who were you supposed to help in particular?
7	A Everybody, anybody who contacted me.
8	Q Mr. Bidany, given the nature of the work that you have
9	described, is it fair to say that your reputation in the
10	community is important to you?
11	A Certainly.
12	Q It is fair to say, isn't it, that a conviction in this
13	case would be devastating to your reputation?
14	A Not only to my reputation but to the public at large.
15	Q Mr. Bidany, are you also concerned that a conviction in
16	this case might mean that you wouldn't be allowed to come to
17	the United States anymore?
18	A I don't understand the question precisely.
19	Q Are you concerned that if you are convicted in this case,
20	you would no longer be permitted to enter the United States?
21	A I haven't seen a a decision in the case yet.
22	Q I am asking, is that a concern of yours, that you might
23	be not permitted to enter the United States if you are
24	convicted in this case?
25	A I'm concerned about the fact that the community relies

# 148 Bidany-cross-Sarratt upon me, that I did a lot of good things by helping in 1 2 relationships, in the society, peace between neighbors. There are a lot of people who await me when I come. 3 4 Usually, rabbis that come to New York. Rabbis that come to New York, two or three times, people think oh, he's coming to 5 6 But it's not me. raise money. 7 But when I come here I come to work, not to work, to help. 8 9 Mr. Bidany, I am not trying to be difficult. 10 question was, are you concerned that you won't be able to --11 you won't be permitted to enter the United States? That's my 12 question. 13 Again, I repeat -- I'm sorry you did not understand -- a 14 person who helps people and is prevented from helping people 15 when there are good results, of course he'll be concerned if he won't be able to come and continue to help. 16 17 Mr. Bidany, you were seated in seat 52 C on the flight 18 from Tel Aviv, is that right? 19 Α Yes. 20 There was a young woman seated in the middle seat in row 21 52, is that right? 22 Α Yes. 23 Did you notice her immediately when you sat down, found 24 your seat? 25 The question is unclear to me.

# 149 Bidany-cross-Sarratt 1 When you found your seat, did you notice the young woman Q 2 seated in the middle seat immediately? 3 Indeed, yes. 4 You testified on direct that you had asked a Delta representative if in fact you could be reassigned, is that 5 6 right? 7 I'm sorry. I don't understand the question. The first 8 question. 9 Did I -- did I notice somebody sitting to -- in a 10 seat next to mine? When I boarded the plane and before I sat down? 11 12 That was my previous question, which I believe you 13 already answered. 14 So what's the next question? My question is, you testified on direct examination that 15 16 when you arrived at the airport, you asked a Delta 17 representative if you could be assigned to a different seat, 18 isn't that right? 19 I asked for a seat where -- where a man would sit next to me or I would sit next to a male. 20 21 When you got on the plane then and realized you were 22 seated next to a woman, did you then ask to be reassigned once 23 you realized there was a woman sitting there? 24 I examined the situation and I -- as I was boarding the plane and progressing on it, that the plane was completely 25

	286
	Bidany-cross-Sarratt 150
1	full. There was no room to sit and I said to myself, I cannot
2	ask anymore. I am going to sit where I was assigned. I have
3	no other choice.
4	Q So you concluded for yourself, without asking, that you
5	had no choice but to sit in that seat?
6	A Yes. Because always whenever I board the plane, I don't
7	sit down right away. I stand next to the door and I watch as
8	the plane fills up.
9	Q Mr. Bidany, you testified that you are a frequent
10	traveler, is that right?
11	A Yes.
12	Q You come to the United States four to five times a year?
13	A Yes.
14	Q So that means eight to ten international flights a year,
15	is that right?
16	A I did not do the math.
17	Q For how many years have you been doing this?
18	A Maybe four years, maybe four years.
19	Q Is it your testimony that on all those flights, after all
20	that experience, you didn't think it was possible to trade
21	seats with somebody?
22	A Very often when I flew El Al, where there are many
23	orthodox people flying, there are more men than women flying
24	and the plane was full. There was no situation where I could

trade places and not sit next to a woman.

25

		Bidany-cross-Sarratt	151
1	Q B	But you don't know because you didn't ask?	
2	A I	In El Al, it's much easier.	
3	Q B	But on the Delta flight, sir	
4	A T	They come to you themselves.	
5	Q 0	On the Delta flight, sir, you didn't ask?	
6	А Т	This is the first time I am flying Delta. I am not	
7	famili	iar with it. It is an American company.	
8	Q M	1r. Bidany, I believe you testified on direct that you	
9	are no	ot much of a sleeper, is that right?	
10	A I	I sleep three to four hours a night.	
11	Q S	So oftentimes you are awake in the middle of the night	?
12	A Y	res.	
13	Q A	And you answer calls when people call you at three and	
14	4:00 o	o'clock in the morning?	
15	A Y	res.	
16	Q Y	You testified on direct that you hadn't slept at all t	hat
17	day, t	the day of your flight that left Tel Aviv.	
18	A Y	Yes, yes.	
19	Q D	Do you normally sleep during the day?	
20	A W	What was the question again?	
21	Q D	Do you normally sleep during the day?	
22	A U	Jsually I don't sleep during the day. If I do, I nod	off
23	in the	e chair a little bit.	
24	Q W	When you nod off though, fair to say, that's a light	
25	sleep,	, right?	

### 152 Bidany-cross-Sarratt Light sleep? Of course. If I sleep during the night and 1 2 then I sleep a little, or nod off a little during the day, it's not --3 4 But, sir, it is no problem for you to function on three to four hours of sleep? 5 6 Α If I sleep at night. 7 Ŋ Correct. 8 It is no problem for you to function on three to 9 four hours of sleep a night. 10 Α Right. 11 In that circumstance, you would consider yourself at 12 normal functional level? 13 Normal, everybody has different measures. Everybody's 14 body has a different measure. Everybody can function 15 differently. 16 But that would be normal for you? 17 Α Yes. 18 Q Mr. Bidany, when you got on the plane, you testified that 19 your meal was late in coming, is that right? 20 Α Yes. 21 Q And how long was it before your meal came, would you say? 22 Α I didn't pay attention to the time. 23 Q So you didn't calculate the exact time between when you 24 got on the plane and until your meal came? 25 Meaning? Α

		Bidany-cross-Sarratt 153
1	Q	I'm asking, did you?
2	Α	There are norms. From the time you get on the plane, the
3	food	is delivered about an hour, hour and a half later. Every
4	perso	on has an indication.
5	Q	Fair to say, with all the events that happened on the
6	plane	e, you weren't keeping a precise check on what time things
7	happe	ened?
8	Α	I don't know. What do you mean by
9	Q	In fact, sir, it is normal not to keep a precise check of
10	what	time things are happening on an airline flight?
11	Α	It depends what's the reference point. If there is
12	some	thing exceptional, you pay attention to it. If it's
13	norma	al, you don't. It depends what's the framework.
14	Q	Mr. Bidany, you testified that at some point after you
15	finis	shed your meal, that you tried to go to sleep, is that
16	right	t?
17	Α	I fell asleep.
18	Q	Did you take any sleeping pills?
19	Α	No.
20	Q	Did you drink any alcohol?
21	Α	No.
22	Q	Do you ever drink alcohol?
23	Α	Only on Purim.
24	Q	You weren't under the influence then of any drug of any
25	kind′	?

		Bidany-cross-Sarratt	154
1	Α	No.	
2	Q	You testified, I believe, on direct, that you then wen	t
3	into	what you characterized as a deep sleep, is that right?	
4	Α	Yes.	
5	Q	But what woke you up was, you needed to go to the	
6	bathı	room?	
7	Α	That's right.	
8	Q	When you went to the bathroom, how long were you up?	
9	Α	I didn't estimate it because after using the bathroom,	I
10	walke	ed around a little bit for exercise.	
11	Q	When you had this exercise, is it fair to say, that you	u
12	were	well awoken?	
13	Α	No.	
14	Q	You weren't fully awake when you walked around the back	k
15	of th	he plane?	
16	Α	I was awake.	
17	Q	For how long did you walk around?	
18	Α	I don't know.	
19	Q	Did you have trouble walking around because it was so	
20	dark′	?	
21	Α	No.	
22	Q	You could see perfectly well?	
23	Α	Certainly.	
24	Q	Now, you testified that on direct, I believe, that you	
25	went	back to your seat and tried to go back to sleep a secon	nd

#### Bidany-cross-Sarratt 155 1 time, is that right? 2 Α That's right. 3 Q Were you able to go back to sleep? 4 Α Yes. So you went from a deep sleep to walking around in the 5 6 back and then back to sleep, is that right? 7 Α Yes. 8 Q Now this sleep, was this a light sleep or a deep sleep? 9 Α Deep sleep. 10 Q What makes you think it was a deep sleep? 11 The fact that I jumped up when she said, when she 12 screamed and woke me up, screaming, is this a mistake. 13 Q Do you normally sleep better when you sleep at your house 14 or do you sleep better on airplanes? 15 Α At home. 16 Fair to say, that it is difficult to get good sleep on an 17 airplane, right? Except on business class, yes. 18 Α 19 And you weren't seated in business class, were you? 20 Α I wasn't. 21 Now, you testified that the second time you went to 22 sleep, you did in fact turn toward the victim, isn't that 23 right? 24 A half turn. Α You testified that you moved around in all different 25

#### 156 Bidany-cross-Sarratt positions, right? 1 2 Yes. 3 One can't be confined to the same position when you are 4 trying to sleep on an aircraft, right? Α Yes. 5 6 Q But are you certain that it was only a precise quarter 7 turn that you made when you were shifting around in your seat? 8 By nature of the fact that I am trying too refrain from 9 touching women, I am afraid of making a mistake. 10 Q But you did decide that you were going to turn towards the victim, isn't that right? 11 12 Α Half a turn. 13 And you turned toward the victim with a blanket covering Q 14 you, is that right? 15 Α Yes. 16 You put this blanket on yourself? 17 Α Yes. 18 Q And the blanket that you put on yourself, you testified 19 on direct, was not a transparent blanket, correct? 20 Α I didn't try to look through it. 21 Q But the fact of the matter is, you can't? It is not a 22 transparent blanket, is it? 23 Α If I didn't try to look through it, I have no indication. 24 Q I am --MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, I think there is a 25

```
Bidany-cross-Sarratt
                                                                 157
1
    problem with -- sorry.
 2
              MR. SARRATT: No. I am not sure we are
 3
    understanding each other.
 4
              MR. BIENENFELD: I think there is a problem with the
    translation with the word translucent. I think that's what
 5
6
    the issue is.
7
              MR. SARRATT: Perhaps I could rephrase?
8
              THE INTERPRETER:
                                 In Hebrew translucent and
9
    transparent and see through, it's all the same word.
10
              MR. BIENENFELD: Right. The word see through means
    you are seeing through it. That's why I am saying there is a
11
12
    problem with the translation.
13
              THE COURT: Can you clarify?
14
              MR. SARRATT: I can.
              THE COURT: All right. Let him try to clarify it.
15
16
         Mr. Bidany, the blanket is made out of fabric, is that
17
    correct?
18
    Α
         I didn't examine it.
19
         Let's take your jacket, for example.
20
    Α
         Okay.
21
         Is I stand here, do you think that I can see your
22
    shoulders?
23
    Α
         No.
24
    Q
         Because they are covered up with your jacket, right?
25
    Α
         Yes.
```

		Bidany-cross-Sarratt 158
1	Q	Just the same way on the airplane, you covered yourself
2	up w	ith a blanket, correct?
3	Α	Yes.
4	Q	So the people couldn't see your shoulders?
5	Α	I believe so.
6	Q	Couldn't see your arms?
7	Α	Right.
8	Q	Couldn't see what your hands were doing?
9	Α	Yes.
10	Q	Mr. Bidany, do you recall placing your hand on the seat
11	of a	young lady who was seated next to you?
12		THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter will repeat that.
13	Α	No. No, I didn't place my hand there.
14	Q	You testified earlier that you in fact have religious
15	beli	efs that prevent you from making contact with women, is
16	that	right?
17	Α	Certainly, yes.
18	Q	So did it make you anxious when you were sitting next to
19	this	woman?
20		THE INTERPRETER: Would ask for another word for
21	anxi	ous. There is a problem with
22	Q	Did it make you nervous?
23	Α	Yes.
24	Q	Despite your being nervous, you were able to two times
25	fall	into a deep sleep, even in close proximity to this woman?

## Bidany-cross-Sarratt 159 1 Α That's right. 2 Do you recall her placing a pillow on her seat to serve 3 as a buffer between her leg and your hand? 4 I didn't see what she was doing. I was covered. 5 Mr. Bidany, I believe you testified a moment ago that 6 after you fell asleep the second time, you awoke only when the 7 victim began speaking to you, is that right? Yes. 8 Α 9 Did she seem upset? 10 Α Yes. Your testimony was, the first thing you heard her saying 11 12 is, is this a mistake? Are you trying to tell me this is a 13 mistake? 14 Is that your testimony? 15 Α Yes, yes, that's what she said. 16 But your testimony is that you hadn't even said anything 17 to her at that point because you were asleep? 18 Α Yes. 19 But she was screaming and the screams that I heard 20 were, what is this, a mistake? You want to tell me that this 21 is a mistake? 22 Are you saying that it was only because her voice was so 23 loud that you woke up? 24 Α Yes. 25 Do you normally have to hear very loud noises in order to

# 160 Bidany-cross-Sarratt wake from asleep? 1 At what level are they very loud? What's your 2 3 definition? 4 In that situation, yes. What about when you are asleep at home and the phone 5 Q 6 rings, is that a very loud noise? 7 It rings, I answer. 8 Is that something that would be equivalent in terms of 9 volume to somebody yelling right next to you? I did not check it. 10 Α 11 My question is, when the phone rings and wakes you up at 12 night, is it so loud that it's the equivalent of somebody 13 yelling right next to you? I did not check. 14 Α 15 THE COURT: We need to take a mid-afternoon break. You tell me when a good time is. 16 17 MR. SARRATT: Right now is a good time. 18 THE COURT: All right. Let's do it. Come back at ten minutes to four -- five minutes to 19 four. 20 21 (Recess taken.) 22 MR. BIENENFELD: I just want a clarification if I am 23 allowed to talk to my client. 24 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, the government's position 25 is that he is on cross-examination. He should not be

```
161
                          Bidany-cross-Sarratt
1
    consulting with his attorney.
 2
              THE COURT: All right.
 3
              MR. BIENENFELD: That's why I asked.
 4
              (Recess taken.)
              (After recess.)
5
              THE COURT:
 6
                          Mr. Sarratt, how much longer do you have
7
    with Rabbi Bidany?
8
              MR. SARRATT: I think about 15 minutes, Your Honor.
9
              THE COURT: You are going to want redirect?
10
              MR. BIENENFELD: There will be redirect, yes.
    Probably about 15, 20 minutes redirect.
11
12
              THE COURT: All right. Figure half hour, 45
13
    minutes.
              How long for the other two witnesses?
14
              MR. BIENENFELD: I may have a third witness.
              THE COURT: So three more or just --
15
16
              MR. BIENENFELD: Three more.
17
              THE COURT: Okay.
18
              MR. BIENENFELD: The two character witnesses will
19
    probably be ten minutes each. And the third witness, the
20
    other witness my questioning will take about ten minutes. I
21
    don't know what the prosecutor wants to do with that. The
22
    third witness will be Agent Martinez, if I decide to call him.
23
              THE COURT: We are talking about a quarter of six,
    if we are lucky. If we do all of those witnesses.
24
25
              Do your witnesses have time constraints? As far
```

```
162
                          Bidany-cross-Sarratt
1
    as --
 2
              MR. BIENENFELD: One witness has a flight Saturday
 3
    night back to Israel.
              THE COURT: Saturday night?
 4
              MR. BIENENFELD: Saturday night.
 5
 6
              THE COURT:
                          Okay.
7
              MR. BIENENFELD: I don't know what you meant by time
8
    constraints. How much in the future?
9
              THE COURT: I don't see this going beyond tomorrow
10
    morning.
11
              MR. BIENENFELD: That's why --
12
              THE COURT: All right. Let's see how much we can
13
    get done tonight. It may make sense to try to conclude the
14
    testimony tonight and then have summations tomorrow morning,
    or carry one witness over into the morning.
15
16
              We will see.
17
              MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you.
              THE COURT: All right.
18
19
              MR. SARRATT: May I proceed, Your Honor?
20
              THE COURT: Yes.
21
    EXAMINATION CONTINUES
22
    BY MR. SARRATT:
23
    Q
         Mr. Bidany, isn't it true that when Ms. Lechtman
24
    confronted you, you responded, it's a mistake, I'm asleep?
25
         That's not correct.
```

	Bidany-cross-Sarratt 163
1	Q Sir, what did you do then after Ms. Lechtman confronted
2	you?
3	A I was asleep.
4	Q After she confronted you, what did you do?
5	A I said, what do you mean, mistake. What are you talking
6	about? And she said, you touched me. I told her, you are
7	mistaken. She told me, let me go out, I want to go to the
8	flight attendant. I vacated the place for her and she walked
9	towards the kitchen.
10	Q And you went to the bathroom, is that right?
11	A Indeed.
12	Q Your first reaction to this was that you needed to go to
13	the bathroom again?
14	A Again? What do you mean again?
15	Q You testified earlier that after your first deep sleep,
16	you went to the bathroom.
17	A Indeed so.
18	Q So your reaction, after she confronted you, was to make
19	another trip to the bathroom, is that right?
20	A Not only to the bathroom, or not only to relieve myself,
21	but also to wash my face.
22	Q That was in the rear of the aircraft, is that right?
23	A Yes.
24	Q So you you were standing then in the back of the
25	aircraft at that point, right?

## 164 Bidany-cross-Sarratt Yes. 1 Α 2 Isn't it true, sir, that you spoke to the flight 3 attendant Aviel Silber while you were there in the back of the 4 aircraft? 5 Α I did not speak with him in the rear of the plane. 6 I only spoke with him in the kitchen. 7 Sir, isn't it true that while you were in the rear of the aircraft, you spoke to Mr. Silber and said, if I touched her, 8 9 it was a mistake? 10 First of all, he did not come and approach me. It was I 11 who came to him and he was in the kitchen. I ask him where is 12 the lady. He said, she's somewhere. She's seated at some 13 place and you cannot speak with her because she is stressed. 14 So I suggest to you, don't speak with her. 15 So I asked again, and he did not permit me to do so. I ask him what is she claiming? And he said to me, that you 16 touched her. I said, I never touched her. She herself stated 17 18 that it was a mistake. It is not true. It is she who made 19 the mistake. How could it reach a situation in which I 20 touched her? How could she come to the decision to slander me 21 with such slander? I'm a married man. I have eleven 22 children. I want to get them married. I have a very good 23 name. I would not undertake a risk to do such nonsense and 24 risk my entire life. 25 Q Mr. --

### 165 Bidany-cross-Sarratt My whole life, would I take such a risk to do such a 1 2 thing and risk my entire life over this? 3 MR. BIENENFELD: If I could have a clarification? Ι 4 just want -- that statement is what he said to the flight attendant or he is making an argument? 5 6 THE COURT: I think he is making an argument. 7 think that's his argument. If I understand correctly. 8 Let's move on. We have been over this a number of 9 times. 10 Q Mr. Bidany, you were in the courtroom for Mr. Silber's testimony, is that correct? 11 12 Α Yes. 13 You heard his testimony that he spoke to you actually in Q 14 the rear of the aircraft and not in the kitchen? 15 Α Yes. Yes, I did hear it. 16 Your testimony is that he is simply mistaken? 17 Α He is mistaken. 18 Q Did you tell Mr. Silber, as you just told the Court, how 19 old you are? 20 Α Can you repeat the question, please? 21 Did you tell Mr. Silber, as you just told the Court, how 22 old you are? 23 Α What I told Silber, if Silber is his name, I told him 24 approximately 48. 25 Did you tell him how many kids you have?

#### 166 Bidany-cross-Sarratt Yes. 1 Α 2 And that's eleven, right? Q 3 Α Yes. 4 Q Now, Mr. Bidany, when the flight landed, law enforcement met the flight, isn't that right? 5 Α Yes. 6 7 When the law enforcement agents showed up, they spoke Q 8 with you, right? 9 Α Yes. You agreed to speak with them? 10 11 Α Yes. Why not speak with them? 12 13 Q When you spoke to them, you did your best to tell them 14 the truth, isn't that right? 15 Α Of course. 16 In fact, you spoke to a Special Agent from the FBI, isn't 17 that right? 18 Α Yes. 19 Was that through the assistance of a translator? 20 Α Yes. 21 Were you able to understand what the translator was 22 saying? 23 I don't know whether the interpreter understood me, but I 24 understood the questions. 25 Q So you understood what he was saying in Hebrew?

	Bidany-cross-Sarratt 167
1	A I understood in Hebrew what the FBI is asking.
2	Q So as far as you are concerned, you didn't have a problem
3	in speaking to the FBI agent through the translator?
4	A Yes, because I understood some of the Hebrew as well as
5	some of the English and taking some of the English I
6	understood and some of the Hebrew that I understood, putting
7	it all together, I was able to make sense of it.
8	Q In fact, sir, you understand quite a bit of English,
9	right?
10	A If one if one speaks to me very slowly.
11	Q Sir, in fact, sometimes you have been nodding in response
12	to my questions before the question has been translated for
13	you, right?
14	A Yes, because you speak very slowly.
15	Q When you spoke to the FBI agent, isn't it true that you
16	told him that it was possible you may have touched the woman
17	while you were sleeping?
18	A No.
19	MR. BIENENFELD: Did you just make the circles and
20	the arrow?
21	THE CLERK: Clear the monitor next to you.
22	MR. SARRATT: Sorry.
23	THE CLERK: It is not showing up. You want to
24	present it. If you object?
25	MR. BIENENFELD: Yes, I object.

```
Bidany-cross-Sarratt
                                                                 168
1
              THE COURT: What are you going to show him?
 2
              MR. SARRATT: An attempt to refresh his recollection
 3
    with a memorandum of the interview.
 4
              THE COURT: Tell me which one that is.
              MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, it's not in the 3500
 5
    material because this is not a government witness. But I'd be
 6
7
    happy to hand up a copy of the memo, which has previously
8
    been --
9
              THE COURT: Wait. I can see it. I can see it here.
10
    Never mind.
11
              MR. SARRATT: You can see it?
12
              THE COURT: Yes.
13
              (Pause.)
14
                          Okay. You can attempt to refresh his
              THE COURT:
    recollection.
15
16
         Mr. Bidany, I am showing you a document that's been
17
    marked for identification purposes as Government Exhibit 2.
18
              Are you able to see this document on the screen in
19
    front of you?
20
         I can see it, but do not understand it.
21
         If I may ask that the interpreter then read silently the
22
    first -- the first sentence of the document so that Mr. Bidany
23
    can verify whether the first sentence of the document is
24
    accurate and --
25
              THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter is to read it
```

```
169
                          Bidany-cross-Sarratt
    silently and thereby he will understand it?
1
 2
              MR. SARRATT: No. You read it to him.
 3
              THE COURT: Please read it.
 4
              THE INTERPRETER: The first sentence into Hebrew
    quietly?
5
 6
              MR. SARRATT: That's what I'm asking.
7
              THE COURT: Yes.
8
              Thank you.
9
               (Interpreter complies.)
10
              THE INTERPRETER: Finished, completed interpreting
11
    into Hebrew, the first -- everything up to the end of the
12
    first sentence in English. That was in English. That is in
13
    English.
14
         Mr. Bidany, does what was just read to you accurately
    reflect your recollection of the interview you had with the
15
    FBI? So far it's accurate?
16
         Between -- amongst us, me, the FBI and the interpreter,
17
18
    yes.
19
         Okay. Mr. Bidany, I want to direct your attention now to
20
    the first sentence of the last paragraph on Government
21
    Exhibit 2.
22
              THE INTERPRETER: The interpreter asks, if Bidany
23
    advised if it is possible, and the interpreter is to interpret
24
    the first sentence, correct?
25
              MR. SARRATT: Yes.
```

### 170 Bidany-cross-Sarratt 1 (Interpreter complies.) 2 Α What is the question? 3 Mr. Bidany, my question is, does that refresh your 4 recollection that you told the FBI that it was possible you 5 may have touched the woman while you were sleeping? Α 6 No. 7 Q Mr. Bidany, did you tell the FBI agents that you run a 8 soup kitchen in Israel? 9 Α That I deal in charitable work. 10 Q Do you in fact run a soup kitchen in Israel? Α 11 Yes. 12 So if the report says you run a soup kitchen in Israel, 13 that's correct? 14 Α Yes. Did you tell the FBI agents that your plane tickets are 15 16 usually purchased by individuals here in the United States 17 that sponsor your travel? 18 Α Yes. 19 Did you tell the flight -- did you tell the FBI that you 20 were assigned to seat 52 C on board that flight? 21 Α Yes. 22 Did you tell the FBI that during the flight, you ate, 23 went to sleep, used the bathroom, and took a walk around the 24 aircraft? 25 Α Yes.

	Bidany-cross-Sarratt 171
1	Q Did you tell the FBI that approximately three hours prior
2	to landing, the woman next to you stood up and began yelling
3	at you, asking you what you were doing?
4	A I said three hours after after three hours, yes.
5	That's what you meant to ask?
6	Q My question is, did you tell the FBI agents that after
7	approximately excuse me three hours prior to landing,
8	the woman sitting next to you stood up and began yelling at
9	you asking you what you were doing?
10	A Yes.
11	Q Did you tell the FBI that you were not aware of what she
12	was talking about?
13	A Certainly.
14	Q Did you tell the FBI you had your head covered with a
15	blanket?
16	A Yes.
17	Q Did you tell the FBI that the woman advised you that she
18	was going to notify the flight attendant?
19	A Can you repeat that?
20	Q Did you tell the FBI that the woman had told you that she
21	was going to notify the flight attendant?
22	A That same complainant, yes?
23	Q Yes.
24	A Yes.
25	Q Did you tell the FBI that this situation was

### 172 Bidany-cross-Sarratt 1 disrespectful and embarrassing? 2 Α Yes. 3 Q Did you tell --4 I told him that it's really disrespectful for someone to do that. 5 Did you tell the FBI that the only verbal contact that 6 Q 7 you had with this woman during the flight was that the woman 8 offered you food? 9 Α Indeed. 10 And you declined and said you were waiting for a special 11 meal? 12 Α Yes. 13 But your testimony is, sir, that you didn't tell the FBI Q 14 that it was possible you may have touched the woman while you were sleeping? 15 16 Can you repeat that? 17 Sir, is it your testimony that you did not tell the FBI 18 that it was possible you may have touched the woman while you 19 were sleeping? 20 I told the interpreter that I did not touch her and that 21 what she claimed that it was a mistake is something she 22 invented. It is her error and I told her how can you conceive 23 of such a thing that I touched her? I didn't touch you. Ιt 24 is her mistake. Apparently, the interpreter misinterpreted 25 my -- I said I'm asleep. It is her mistake. It is her

## Bidany-redirect-Benenfeld 173 1 mistake in saying that I touched her. Apparently --2 apparently the interpreter misunderstood it and --3 misunderstood or misconstrued it, that it was I who said it. 4 Mr. Bidany, I was asking you a yes or no question. But I 5 think it's simple. Did you tell the FBI that it was possible that you 6 7 may have touched the woman while you were sleeping? Yes or 8 no? 9 Α No. 10 MR. SARRATT: No further questions, Your Honor. REDIRECT EXAMINATION 11 12 BY MR. BIENENFELD: 13 Q Rabbi Bidany, do you remember the testimony about the 14 work that you do, about meeting people and receiving money 15 here in this country? 16 Yes. 17 Do you have a set price that you charge to meet people? 18 Absolutely not. I do not measure the -- in money the 19 amount for a person who needs help. 20 Q Are there some people who meet with you for counselling 21 and don't give you any money? 22 Many. The economic situation is a difficult one. 23 in fact, there are cases where I actually help them. 24 Q Do you remember the questions on cross-examination about 25 asking somebody on the plane whether you could switch seats?

#### Bidany-redirect-Benenfeld 174 Yes. 1 Α 2 You didn't ask anyone on the plane to switch seats, 3 correct? 4 No, I didn't. I stood on the side to see whether the 5 place is filling up and seeing that it's full, I made peace with the situation. 6 But prior to getting on to the plane, did you ask anyone 7 to be seated next to a man? 8 9 Because I know that at check-in, they know exactly 10 who is sitting next to who. No one else knows. That's why I ask there, at the check-in. 11 12 You assume they know because they can see the names? Q 13 Α Yes. 14 Q Have you ever flown Delta before this time? Never, that was the first time. 15 Α 16 Q When you fly El Al --17 Α And also the last time. 18 When you fly El Al, is there ever a time that you are 19 seated next to a woman? Where your assigned -- withdrawn. 20 Is there ever a time when you are assigned a seat 21 next to a woman? 22 Α It does happen sometimes. 23 Q On those occasions, what do you do? 24 Α The same thing I did here. It's a general rule. 25 Q What do you do?

	Bidany-redirect-Benenfeld 175
1	A I cover myself and sleep. And if there are situations
2	which in situations where I have no choice, I am unable to
3	sleep, then I spend my time talking with men and just to pass
4	the time on the plane.
5	Q There was testimony on cross-examination about how much
6	you turned during your sleep the second time.
7	A How can one remember you know, how can one or how
8	could I follow and remember to the T, to the whether it was
9	45 degrees, 180 degrees, during sleep to the exact degree?
10	Q Is it something that you could show the court how much
11	you would turn on the chair?
12	A Sure.
13	Q Could you cover yourself with a blanket and do the same
14	as if you were on the plane?
15	MR. BIENENFELD: May I approach?
16	(Witness complies.)
17	Q Were you ever fully on your side?
18	You can take the blanket off him.
19	Were you ever fully lying on your side, that your
20	shoulder would be into the chair?
21	THE INTERPRETER: Only your shoulder?
22	Q Your whole side, including the shoulder?
23	A You mean entirely like this?
24	Q Yes. Like that. Were you ever in that position?
25	A No. No way. That's for that's not possible because

# 176 Bidany-redirect-Benenfeld that way as soon as I fall asleep, I would fall asleep on her. 1 2 MR. BIENENFELD: Can I make a record of what it looked like, Judge, or would you like to? 3 4 THE COURT: Why don't you do it? MR. BIENENFELD: Okay. The defendant was almost 180 5 6 degrees in the chair with his shoulder and arm against the 7 chair fully, as well as his hip against the chair fully. 8 THE COURT: That's actually 90 degrees. 9 MR. BIENENFELD: I'm sorry, you're right. 10 Thank you. 11 THE COURT: 180 --12 MR. BIENENFELD: That's why I am a lawyer and not 13 geometrist. 14 THE COURT: So noted. MR. BIENENFELD: Facing the left side entirely. 15 16 You never were in that position that you just showed us 17 now? 18 Α Absolutely not. 19 From the start I would protect myself by not being 20 like that. It's clear as soon as I would fall asleep, it 21 would be on her. 22 The US Attorney asked you questions whether you were 23 nervous that you might fall into a deep sleep on this flight 24 for fear of maybe touching a woman. 25 Do you remember those questions?

	313
	Bidany-redirect-Benenfeld 177
1	A Every person has his norms and knows himself and his own
2	norms. My wife has never complained that I have given I
3	had hit her or gave her a blow while asleep.
4	Q But you did fall in a deep sleep, correct?
5	A I slept deeply and I hopefully and wholly believe that I
6	did not touch her.
7	Q Why were you so tired that you slept so fully at this
8	time?
9	A I did not sleep I did not sleep the day before and now
10	that I recall I did not sleep half the previous night.
11	Q The day of this flight was Saturday night, correct?
12	A Yes. And on Friday night, we had a festive occasion
13	which kept us up half the night.
14	Q On Saturday, it is a religious holiday for you, correct?
15	A Yes.
16	Q Do you normally take a nap on that day?
17	A It is not it is not possible not to sleep after the
18	meal on Saturday afternoon.
19	Q But on this Saturday afternoon
20	A But on this Saturday, nevertheless, I did not sleep.
21	Q So normally you are used to going to sleep Saturday
22	afternoon after lunch, correct?
23	A Certainly.
24	Q Why didn't you sleep after lunch on this Saturday?
	[

So that I would be able to sleep on the plane.

25

	Bidany-redirect-Benenfeld 178
1	Q When a religious when a Jewish religious person wakes
2	up from asleep, is there a certain requirement immediately
3	afterwards to do something?
4	A Yes.
5	Q What is it?
6	A To lave the hands, to wash the hands. And as is normal
7	of all human beings, one has to go to the bathroom too because
8	when one does says a blessing one cannot be impure. One
9	has to be cleansed, as it were.
10	Q So when you were woken up by the woman next to you
11	screaming, why did you go to the bathroom right away?
12	A Because I needed to go to the bathroom and also needed to
13	wash my face.
14	Q Did you also need to wash your hands?
15	A Yes.
16	Q Is it your manner that as soon as you wake up from asleep
17	that you go to the bathroom to wash your hands?
18	A Indeed, that is so.
19	Q The US Attorney asked you questions about a statement
20	that you made to the FBI.
21	He asked you if you said if it was possible that you
22	may have touched her while you were sleeping.
23	Do you remember those questions?
24	A Yes.
25	Q What did you say at that time about sleeping?

# Bidany-recross-Sarratt 179 1 That I slept and that she -- and that she woke me up with 2 her yell, that it is a mistake and, you want to tell me that this is a mistake. I was in shock. What I told the FBI was 3 4 that this was her claim. She is mistaken. It's not true. 5 Q What did you tell the FBI about touching the woman next to you? 6 7 I did not touch her. 8 MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you. 9 RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. SARRATT: 10 11 MR. SARRATT: Very briefly. 12 Mr. Bidany, you testified on redirect that you have taken 13 other flights from Israel to the United States in which you 14 have been seated next to a woman, is that right? Α Yes. 15 16 In fact, sir, your testimony was that you didn't sleep on 17 those flights but that you spent your time talking to the 18 other men? 19 Perhaps I did not explain myself well or correctly. that your honorable self will understand, let me explain 20 21 again, just so this will be focused and very clear. Heavens 22 forbid, I am not casting aspersions or finding fault in you. 23 There are situations -- occasions in which I fly El 24 Al and I am seated next to a woman, when there is no choice. 25 So if I am unable to fall asleep, I try to fall asleep, but if

	Bidany-recross-Sarratt 180
1	I am unable to sleep, so if that is the case, I am and I am
2	unable to sleep, I look for someone who dresses as I do, a
3	person who like me is a religious Jew, and we pass the time
4	standing and talking, just like every other person would do
5	who is on that flight.
6	Q Mr. Bidany, though, it is fair to say that often when you
7	are seated next to a woman, your testimony is you are unable
8	to fall asleep?
9	A I didn't understand that.
10	Q Is it your testimony that when you are when you have
11	been seated next to a woman previously, you were often unable
12	to fall asleep?
13	A I didn't say that.
14	Q Let me ask you. Are you often unable to fall asleep when
15	you are seated next to a woman?
16	A I did not say often. On rare occasions, it does happen
17	that I am seated next to a woman. And I repeat again what I
18	had said, because on most in most cases I do sleep next
19	I sit, sit, next to a man because El Al respects the religious
20	convictions of its passengers and makes the effort to arrange
21	that they that men sit next to men when they need to.
22	Q Sir, my question is, have there been previous occasions
23	when you have been seated next to a woman and been unable to
24	sleep?
25	

	Bidany-recross-Sarratt 181		
1	was unable to sleep, not if there were occasions which I		
2	sat next to a woman and could not fall asleep because I wasn't		
3	tired. Such situations do occur.		
4	MR. BIENENFELD: I believe he also said not because		
5	I wasn't nervous. I'm asking the interpreter.		
6	THE INTERPRETER: As part of the previous answer		
7	that was reiterated, was not out of nervousness.		
8	A Not because of nervousness.		
9	Q But you in fact on this flight, the Delta flight, you		
10	fell into a deep sleep two times?		
11	A Yes.		
12	Q And your wife, you said, has never complained that you		
13	have made some kind of involuntary action in your sleep, is		
14	that right?		
15	A Correct.		
16	MR. SARRATT: No further questions.		
17	MR. BIENENFELD: No questions.		
18	THE COURT: Thank you, Rabbi Bidany. You are		
19	excused.		
20	(Witness steps down.)		
21	MR. BIENENFELD: Another witness, Judge?		
22	THE COURT: Let's try to do it. We have put this on		
23	for 9:00 o'clock tomorrow because we are not going to be		
24	finished this evening.		
25	MR. BIENENFELD: Do you want the character witness?		

# Yechiel-direct-Bienenfeld 182 I said we will put this on for 1 THE COURT: Yes. 2 9:00 o'clock tomorrow morning because we are not going to be 3 finished tonight. I would like to get one more witness done 4 and then let the reporter go because he is no doubt quite tired. 5 6 MR. BIENENFELD: Could somebody please ask Erez. 7 Yechiel to come in? 8 Mr. Yechiel is also fluent in Hebrew. He needs an 9 interpreter. 10 THE COURT: What is his name? 11 MR. BIENENFELD: Erez, E R E Z, Yechiel, YECHIEL. 12 13 THE COURT: Pronounce the last name once more. 14 MR. BIENENFELD: Yechiel. 15 THE COURT: Mr. Yechiel, please stand. 16 Raise your right hand. 17 (The witness is affirmed by the Court.) THE COURT: Please be seated. 18 19 MR. BIENENFELD: I just want to make sure that my client could hear the Hebrew interpreter as well if she is 20 21 just going to be translating this direct. Ask her to please 22 speak loud enough when she repeats my question in Hebrew so my 23 client sitting over there could hear it. 24 THE COURT: Okay. 25 MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you.

#### Yechiel-direct-Bienenfeld 183 DIRECT EXAMINATION 1 2 BY MR. BIENENFELD: 3 Q Mr. Yechiel, good afternoon. 4 Α Good afternoon. How do you know Gavriel Bidany? 5 Q 6 Α We are -- we came from the same community, the same moshav, M O S H A V, the same village. 7 8 Where do you live in reference to where he lives? 9 A distance of about a kilometer and a half, about a mile. 10 Something like that. If you were to walk from your house to his house, how 11 12 long would it take? 13 Α A walk of about 15 to 20 minutes. 14 Q If you were to drive there, how long would it take? 15 Three, four minutes. Α 16 What do you do for a living? Q 17 Α I'm a singer. 18 Q What do you mean by a singer? What does that mean? 19 Α I sing at festive affairs and events. 20 Q You get paid to do that, correct? 21 Α Yes. 22 Your songs and your singing can be seen on the computer 23 and YouTube, is that correct? 24 Α There are portions of my performances. 25 Q Do you sell CDs?

	Yechiel-direct-Bienenfeld 184			
1	A I have disks that were published, yes.			
2	Q How many CDs have you published?			
3	A There is one disk that is estimated to have been			
4	published in the millions.			
5	Q I just want a clarification of the word "published."			
6	It's copies, correct?			
7	A It has been distributed.			
8	Q You have distributed over a million CDs?			
9	A Not me personally; somebody who handled it.			
10	Q You sold, somebody sold over a million copies of your			
11	music, correct?			
12	A Yes.			
13	THE COURT: Sustained.			
14	What does this have to do with the price of tea in			
15	China? Come on.			
16	Q Have you met Rabbi Bidany either withdrawn.			
17	Have you met Rabbi Bidany either socially or			
18	professionally?			
19	A We know each other from the same village. But once I was			
20	invited to sing at one of his parties and since then our			
21	relationship has been strengthened.			
22	Q Have you spoken to him or heard others speak about him in			
23	your communities.			
24	Have you spoken to him or heard others speak about			
25	him in your community?			

	Yechiel-direct-Bienenfeld 185		
1	A It's both. I spoke to him and I also heard other people		
2	speak about him.		
3	Q Do you know if he has a reputation in the community in		
4	which he lives for truthfulness?		
5	A Yes, absolutely.		
6	Q Are you acquainted with that reputation in the community		
7	that he has for truth and veracity?		
8	A Yes, absolutely.		
9	Q Do you have an opinion as to that reputation?		
10	A I can say that he's a man who is very admired and		
11	beloved. I can say that credibility and truthfulness is one		
12	of his most salient points or salient characteristics.		
13	Q Would you believe him under oath?		
14	MR. SARRATT: Objection, Your Honor.		
15	THE COURT: Sustained.		
16	Q Have you		
17	THE COURT: It is sustained.		
18	MR. BIENENFELD: You don't have to translate.		
19	Q Have you had an occasion to be with Rabbi Bidany when		
20	women are present?		
21	MR. SARRATT: Objection, Your Honor.		
22	This doesn't go to his reputation or his opinion		
23	about Mr. Bidany's character. That's all it is admissible		
24	under 405(a).		
25	MR. BIENENFELD: It goes to a particular instance of		

	Yechiel-cross-Sarratt 186			
1	reputation and character being in the presence of another			
2	woman.			
3	MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, Rule 405 makes clear, that			
4	testimony as to specific instances of conduct is not			
5	admissible on direct examination. Testimony under 405			
6	under Federal Rules of Evidence 405, Methods of Proving			
7	Character: Proof may be made by testimony as to reputation or			
8	by testimony in the form of opinion. The rule further			
9	provides, that on cross-examination inquiry is allowable into			
10	specific instances of conduct.			
11	THE COURT: Sustained.			
12	Q Do you have an opinion as to whether or not Rabbi Bidany			
13	is an honest and truthful person?			
14	A I have already said that he's truthful and honest and, in			
15	addition, he's a charitable person and he does a lot for the			
16	public.			
17	Q So what is your opinion about Rabbi Bidany's being			
18	truthful and honest?			
19	MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I think this is three or			
20	four times.			
21	THE COURT: I got the point.			
22	MR. BIENENFELD: Thank you, Judge.			
23	Your witness.			
24				
25	CROSS-EXAMINATION			

	Yechiel-cross-Sarratt 187			
1	BY MR. SARRATT:			
2	Q Good afternoon, sir.			
3	A Good afternoon.			
4	Q Mr. Bidany is a friend of yours, right?			
5	A Yes.			
6	Q Fair to say, he's a close friend of yours?			
7	A Yes.			
8	Q Last question. On March 27, 2011, were you on board a			
9	Delta flight from Tel Aviv to John F. Kennedy Airport in			
10	New York?			
11	A No.			
12	MR. SARRATT: Thank you, sir.			
13	A March 23rd? No.			
14	Q The question was March 27th.			
15	A No, no.			
16	MR. SARRATT: Thank you.			
17	REDIRECT EXAMINATION			
18	BY MR. BIENENFELD:			
19	A This past Sunday were you on a flight with him from			
20	Tel Aviv to New York?			
21	MR. SARRATT: Objection, Your Honor.			
22	THE COURT: Sustained.			
23	It is beyond the scope of cross.			
24	MR. BIENENFELD: On cross he asked about a flight on			
25	March 27th. I was asking about a flight this past Sunday.			

```
188
1
              MR. SARRATT: It wouldn't have any relevance anyway,
 2
    Your Honor. It wasn't in the scope of his initial direct and,
 3
    if anything, it would go to a specific instance of conduct.
 4
    It would be inadmissible.
              THE COURT: Sustained.
 5
 6
              Anything else?
7
              You are excused.
8
              Thank you.
9
               (Witness excused.)
10
              Similar length?
11
              MR. BIENENFELD: Yes.
12
              THE COURT: Let's do it then.
13
              MR. BIENENFELD: Call Sigalit Dar to the stand.
14
              THE COURT: Spell that, please.
              MR. BIENENFELD: S I G A L I T, last name D A R,
15
16
    Dar.
17
              THE COURT:
                          Thank you.
18
              THE COURT:
                          Ms. Dar, please raise your right hand.
19
              MR. BIENENFELD: She speaks English. The
20
    interpreter can sit next to my client.
21
              THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.
22
               (The witness is duly sworn/affirmed by court.)
23
              THE COURT:
                          Please be seated.
24
              Please state and spell your name for the record.
25
              THE WITNESS: My name is Sigalit Dar.
```

#### Dar-direct-Bienenfeld 189 S I G A L I T, last name is D A R. 1 2 DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. BIENENFELD: 3 4 Q Good afternoon, Ms. Dar. 5 How do you know Gavriel Bidany? 6 Α He's my first cousin. 7 Where do you live in reference to Gavriel Bidany? Q 8 We live in the same community, like about ten minutes Α 9 walking distance. 10 Q Are you presently employed? 11 Α No. 12 When was the last time you held a job? Q 13 Α About six months. 14 Q What was that job? 15 Secretary, office work. Α 16 Have you met Rabbi Bidany either socially or professionally? 17 18 Α Sure. 19 By the way, are you an American citizen? 20 Yes, I am. Α 21 Q Okay. You also live in Israel though full-time? 22 Α Yes, now, yes, I do. 23 Q How long have you lived in Israel? I lived there since -- I went back to Israel in '97. 24 Α 25 Q You have lived in the same moshav since '97 with

1			
	Dar-direct-Bienenfeld	190	
1	Rabbi Bidany?		
2	A No.		
3	Q When did you move to be ten minutes walk	away from	
4	Rabbi Bidany?		
5	A Since December 2009, a year and a half.		
6	Q But you mention that he is your cousin,	correct?	
7	A Yes.		
8	Q Have you spoken to him or heard others s	peak about him in	
9	your community?		
10	A Sure, a lot.		
11	Q Do you know if has a reputation in the c	ommunity in which	
12	he lives for truthfulness?		
13	A Yes.		
14	Q Are you acquainted with that reputation	in the community	
15	for truth and veracity?		
16	A Yes.		
17	Q Do you have an opinion as to that reputa	tion?	
18	A Definitely.		
19	Q What is your opinion concerning his repu	tation?	
20	A He's a very honest guy, reliable, respec	tful, very	
21	gentle, caring person. Always cared about ot	her people and	
22	help other people, no matter what time is it.	Lot of people	
23	coming and taking advantage from him and very gentle mannered.		
24	Q Have you had occasions to see him help p	eople?	
25	A All the time.		

## Dar-direct-Bienenfeld 191 1 MR. SARRATT: Objection, Your Honor. 2 Personally. Α 3 MR. SARRATT: Again, counsel is inquiring into 4 specific instances of conduct. THE COURT: Sustained. 5 Anything else that you wanted to add to your answer 6 Q 7 before I interrupted? 8 MR. SARRATT: Your Honor, I think he cut the witness 9 off. He can ask another question. 10 THE COURT: I will overrule it. Is there --11 Q 12 THE COURT: Don't point to any specific instances of 13 him being helpful to people in the community. But continue 14 with the answer, if you can, to the question that was posed. All right. What is it exactly that you -- I'm sorry. 15 Α 16 That's okay. Ask another question. THE COURT: 17 Q What is your opinion as to his reputation for 18 truthfulness and honesty? 19 Α The way I know Rabbi Bidany, my cousin, is like no matter 20 what, he would say the truth, even if it's like something that 21 he is not going to gain make good from it. Like he's going to 22 tell the truth. That's the way I know him since I remember 23 myself. Thank you. 24 MR. BIENENFELD: 25 Nothing further.

	Dar-cross-Sarratt 192			
1	THE WITNESS: Sure.			
2	CROSS-EXAMINATION			
3	BY MR. SARRATT:			
4	Q Good afternoon.			
5	A Good afternoon.			
6	Q I believe I understood you correctly a moment ago to say			
7	that Mr. Bidany is your cousin?			
8	A Right.			
9	Q Would you also consider him a friend?			
10	A A friend? I can't call a rabbi friend.			
11	Q Do you have a close relationship with him?			
12	A Close as far as cousins.			
13	Q Are you fond of him?			
14	A I'm sorry?			
15	Q Are you fond of him?			
16	A Am I? Sure, I respect him, yes.			
17	Q Did you fly from Tel Aviv, Israel to New York on a Delta			
18	flight on March 27, 2011?			
19	A No.			
20	MR. SARRATT: Thank you.			
21	MR. BIENENFELD: Nothing further, Your Honor.			
22	THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Dar. You are excused.			
23	THE WITNESS: Thank you.			
24	(Witness excused.)			
25	THE COURT: Any further witnesses?			

193 1 MR. BIENENFELD: Your Honor, I may call Agent 2 Martinez. If we are going to start tomorrow morning, it would be a very quick direct. I wanted to just have the night to 3 4 think about it and consult with my client about it. THE COURT: Sure. 5 We will resume tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock with 6 7 any further witnesses for the defendant. We will then go 8 right into summations and that's it. 9 MR. BIENENFELD: I just want -- if the government 10 can make Martinez available. I did not subpoena him. 11 MR. SARRATT: I was starting to say the government 12 may call Agent Martinez as a very brief rebuttal witnesses. 13 We won't do that if the defense calls him. We will ask our questions when he is up there. We are more than happy to make 14 15 him available. 16 THE COURT: Great. I will see you all 9:00 o'clock 17 tomorrow morning. 18 MR. BIENENFELD: Have a good night. 19 MR. SARRATT: Thank you, Your Honor. 20 (Recess taken until May 5, 2011.) 21 22 23 24 25

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